
Saturday, September 20, 1997

The news is so sad, but happy at the same time. Rich is finally Home... God bless you...

Barbara

Today, Rich Mullins went home to the Lord... We have tickets sitting on the bar for the concert he was supposed to have this evening... It would have been a first for our kids... As my 15 yr old son said, Rich's death is surely Heaven's gain. God Bless you Rich

I am sure Rich is better off, no doubt there. But our loss is immeasurable.

Our prayers and concern are extended to all family and loved ones.
Joey Watt,
Peoria, IL

I'll miss rich!

We are deeply sadden to here about Rich our loss HEAVENS Gain!!!!!!

I was sorry to hear of Rich's death and I know he will be sorely missed. God and the angels are rejoicing listening to Rich sing in Heaven. God Bless.

I am so saddened that we lost Rich tonight. God has called back the helper of the poor, the comedienne, and now the singer. Why? My heart is broken.

He and his music meant so much to me.
Chris Barrett,
High Point, NC

The news was so sad. I know you must be going through a very tough time. You'll be in my prayers. Rich was a very special man who touched a lot of lives. He will be missed, but heaven is rejoicing at the homecoming of one of its finest. We will see him again someday if we're faithful to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

Mark Nebergall

His music and life touched us all so deeply and profoundly. I am very upset at his passing -- I guess I am being selfish -- it's God's turn to have him now!!!!
Love,
Juanice

I know that Rich is now Singing His Praise to Lord in perfect

communion with the One he loved to sing about.

He will be greatly missed. I smile knowing he is with HIM. Love and prayers go with you.

Bad for us but great for him. I guess the Lord gets to enjoy all his new songs. We will hear them when we arrive in heaven.

John

I will miss such a great musician and apostle of Christ.

Peg

Terrible tragedy, and such a loss, but heaven's gain. Praying for all the family, friends and fans.

The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Psalm 138:8

I am so sorry to hear about Rich. His songs really minister like so few.

Chris Vanover

Associate Pastor

Calvary Chapel Rivergate

Nashville, TN

I am sure you will probably receive several notes, but the sudden accident involving Rich really struck something. I am only in high school, but for my geography class I have to read the newspaper and keep a journal over world events. The news I heard over the radio today broke my heart. I read about death all the time in the paper. This one completely altered the world of Christian music, as I see it. I hope you are staying well in this sad time. May God bless you and bring you comfort.

Sincerely,
Laura G.

My wife, Amy, and I recently worshiped with Rich and Mitch in McKinney, Texas (burb of Dallas). It was a phenomenal evening of celebration and praise, as well as reverence and contemplation. We almost stayed home since it was quite a drive. We are both thankful that God led us there that evening. We will miss Rich Mullins and his music. He made me feel like he was leading worship and not entertaining!

Tim Herbel

We will all miss him, his music, and his talent TREMENDOUSLY! I'm sure you feel the loss more than us. But maybe he got his wish in a way, and went out a little like Elijah - definitely rocking til it was his time to roll.

Kelley

I didn't know what to say and still don't. My prayers are with Rich's family and all whose lives he has touched. I can only imagine how incredibly insignificant that candlelight in Central Park appears now... although I wept as I gazed upon the stars this evening, I suppose that Rich never really did belong to this

world. I remember three concerts ago when he, with three others, sang "... the angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore." He is home. My thoughts and prayers are with you and so many others in whose lives Rich has become entwined.

God bless you.
Angie

While there are a lot of reasons to appreciate him, I tend to look up to certain people not because of their musical talents, but because of their lives. Michael Card, Keith Green, and Rich Mullins have been three of the biggies in this area.

I was glad to find a great many of his tunes listed with their chords. I played a few of them on my guitar as a sort of salute to him.

Peace,
Ken

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Sunday, September 21, 1997

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I once asked Rich for the chords or a copy of The Way to Love you.... he laughed and said.... you think I have it written down, I'll get it to you... Beth then said... Don't hold your breath. I just heard about the passing of this Godly man.... I will miss him, but am happy for the many memories I have of him.
Lois

What a loss to all of us who are Rich Mullins Fans. The world of

ccm has lost a great voice and heaven has gained a new one.

your sister in Christ,
Connie

Thanksgiving to God for the short time he allowed us to be ministered to by Rich, before taking him home. If it be Your will, Father, we ask that You would extend Your healing touch to all involved, and Your comforting presence to all of us left behind - until we meet on the other side of the cross. Amen. The Jordan is no longer waiting for Rich to cross thru... He is still an Awesome God!

I can feel for you. Rich is my all time favorite Christian musician, singer, song writer. Someone I feel the Christian music industry has underrated to many times. I can't tell you how many times I have purchased a CD of his to give to someone. Or, how many times I had an opportunity to share with someone because of hearing Rich's music playing in my car. Again, I am sorry for you, but to think he's home with our Lord Christ Jesus. A home where his songs spoke of.

Because of Jesus,
Michael

He is with Jesus now and able to sing to his heart's content.

I still simply cannot believe that this humble, honest, man of God who could weave such a beautiful tapestry of poetry and song is gone... I never got the chance to know him personally, but after listening to his songs for so many years and having heard him at so many of his concerts, I felt as though I did and held him in my

heart as a dear friend. Even as I write this note, I can't stop crying. I don't know what to say except I will forever miss him... his passion for God, his humbleness, the way his songs can touch the heart and stir the soul, his laughter, the way he'd walk out onto the stage barefoot, everything... I'll remember and carry these things within my heart always. I will forever remember Rich Mullins and the life he lived. He did leave a legacy for us, through his music and through his life, and I know there are many, including me, who will carry on...

Forgive me... sometimes words fail me and I am unable to express the things I feel so strongly inside with the passion and eloquence they so deserve. But I do remember the thought he left us with at the last concert my husband and I were able to see him at in McKinney, Texas...

He had opened the song "Ready For The Storm" with a little story of how in Ireland the women would weave their own special designs into the sweaters their husbands and sons would wear to sea. The reason for this was because the sea there is very rough, and if their ship were caught in a storm and the crew lost, their bodies would be beaten and broken beyond recognition by the time they reached the shores. The only way at times for the women to recognize them would be by the designs on the tattered remains of their sweaters.

In closing the concert he remarked that, you know, one day, after all our trials and tribulations here on earth, we're all gonna wash up on the other shore, beaten and broken beyond recognition... couple of angels will probably come walking by and shake their heads saying, "Man, we really need to get this garbage cleaned up..." They stoop to carry away the tattered figure, then Jesus walks up stopping them in their tracks... stares quietly for a moment... then, with a loving smile he points and says "No, wait... don't you see... that's my sweater..."

It's a bit paraphrased now and I don't think my telling of it does it justice, but I wanted to share it anyway. The story was meant to be slightly humorous at the time he told it, but I think it

holds a different meaning for me now. As with everything else he left with us, I will treasure this last little tale I ever heard from Rich's own lips.

May there be a memorial and testimony to the life Rich led as a Christian and the passion and joy with which he sang... My heart and prayers go out to Rich's family, his friends, and all the lives he has touched through his music...

God Bless,
Tracy Guynes

Rich's music has really blessed me and really made me think about what God is really like. His death really brings his music into focus. He truly went out like Elijah

I count Rich as one of my recent ministers and encouragers the past few years. I'll cherish the time I saw him in concert in Oct of 95 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He indeed had a heart for ministry, as his work at the Navajo reservation showed. I am so encouraged by his song "Creed" which is almost the Apostle's Creed, word for word. He sings it in such a faith-affirming way. The part that rings in my head over and again is the chorus, where he says of his faith, "I did not make it; no, it is making me! It is the very truth of God, and not the invention of any man." That song "inspired" a sermon of mine. It also helps move me to see usefulness in a creed. If not a church creed, at least some kind of concrete personal statement of faith.

He was one of the few (along with Kieth Green and Michael Card) contemporary Christian songwriters/performers for whom his concern for good theology obviously mattered in his songs. His seminary background at Cincinnati showed in his work.

Late at night, in the quietness and solitude of my office, as I prepare for tomorrow's worship, it comforts me to share my hurt

with another Christian. For me, Rich was much more than just another Christian recording artist. I will miss him.

"Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r, and love.
Our God is an awesome God!"
Rich Mullins, 1988

Don White

"Our God is An Awesome God" is sung often in our church and I will forever remember that God has taken Rich home to himself, whenever I hear it.

Rev. Tim Davis
Pastor, Westside Bible Church,
Victoria, BC, Canada

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family,

My prayers are with you at this time... I don't know if it be of any comfort to you, but I'd like you to know the tremendous impact your son had on my life.

When I was twelve years old (1984), Rich came to sing a concert at our church in Wabash, Indiana. I was blessed in that he stayed at our house, so I was able to meet him, eat dinner with him, and he even played for us on our old clunky piano (though I didn't realize it was actually old and clunky until many a year later). I remember so many of the things that Rich shared, and his big encouragement to me was to practice classical music and work on my piano technique, as that was how he developed his ability to play so many styles. I took this to heart, and when my friends were playing from pop song books, I played Mozart. A concert pianist I will never be, but he helped me develop a talent in ways I otherwise wouldn't have. Today, I have written several songs,

mostly because of the desire he instilled in me. Rich came back the next year and stayed with us again, and to a starry-eyed thirteen-year-old, he was the best there would ever be. I continued with that perspective for the next thirteen years, and I still believe it today. It's so much more than just musical, though... he was REAL. When the world lost Mother Theresa, I turned to my husband and said, "At least we still have Rich... " what an example of humility and giving he has been to the world.

I have been to fifteen of Rich's concerts since 1984, and whenever time and crowds allowed, Rich took the time to chat with me and keep up with our family. In 1988, in fact, he made the year of this sixteen-year-old by granting my request to write a forward to a photographic essay I was completing for school. My favorite of his songs was - and still is - "Elijah," so I asked if he'd write a few sentences about the song. I have memorized the words he wrote... "There are those gaps in our lives that are caused by the lack of heroes - people with courage and integrity, and people who inspire those qualities in us. I have been blessed enough to have met a few, and this song is dedicated to the desire they have instilled within me: the desire to be a person with integrity." I know from what he has said many a time that you, his mother, were one of those people. I went on to spend over forty hours completing my photo essay, and my teacher gave the only perfect grade she's ever given on one of these projects... the photo essay (the size of an entire photo album) is still one of my most prized possessions, and if it would be of any comfort for you, I would love for you to have it. I do not have your home address, but my address is Angie Knight, 509 S. Main Street, Upland, IN 46989. If seeing more of Rich's words would be of comfort to you, I can easily even drive down to Richmond.

I am sure you are familiar with the "Choice Lifestyle" team that Rich helped form in Wichita... that is yet another way that Rich indirectly touched my life. A lot of things happened in my family and my life during my junior and senior years of high school, and when I went to church camp in 1989, the Choice team was there. For the first time, I felt that I had a glimpse of what I REALLY needed to do to "walk the walk" instead of just talking the talk. The beauty and sensitivity with which the team presented their

message penetrated to my very heart, and my Christian walk was strengthened beyond measure due to the team's influence. I'm sure that Rich had no idea how many lives were touched by the group he helped lead.

I could continue to go on for pages... Rich's speaking, his concerts, his lyrics are such an inspiration. A few concerts ago, Rich and his back-up singers sang "This world is not my home, I'm just a 'passin' through... the angels beckon me through heaven's open door, and I ain't got a home in this world anymore." I look forward to the day that we can all join Rich and his father when we get home.

Thank you for giving Rich's faith wings...
Still trying every day to "Be God's,"
Angie Knight

I have heard of many well-known and famous people dying but Rich Mullins death really hit closer to my heart than I ever knew it would. For the first time, I actually shed tears for a person who passed away that I never knew personally. I suppose his passing affected me deeply because it has been his music that has spoken to me on the deepest of levels in my times of greatest struggle in my Christian walk. I know none of us can credit human flesh for our Christian walk but the connection I found in Mr. Mullins' music made the dark times more bearable.

Rich Mullins was a precious jewel in a heap of pebbles, a rare find in the sea of mediocrity. Now perhaps with the passing of Rich Mullins Christians will "discover" the wealth of this man's largely underrated body of work. Hopefully they will come to know him for more than "Awesome God." From somebody who knew of Rich Mullins for more than "Awesome God" his music will be missed but now he is singing that chorus to God Himself.

In closing, I quote Mr. Mullins' song that has been on repeat play in my CD player for twenty or thirty minutes or so now: "Now the

storm is fading and the night is through... and now the morning comes and I can see the things that really matter become the wings you send to gather me to my home, to my home. I'm going home."

Sincerely,
Jeff Stoneking

He enjoyed life here and he was young at heart. His exuberance will be missed.

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

In one of his songs, your son wrote that you and your husband 'gave faith hands and feet and somehow gave it wings' - thank you for your part in Rich's ministry. My walk with Christ has been changed because of the words and music God gave Rich to share.

We can remember his gift to us. He was the first Christian musician I ever heard after I was born again, and I just met him last month on my birthday in the town where I was born. So I guess now we find a way in ourselves to share Christ's love, though not with the beauty that God gave Rich...

My selfish heart cries out
Why did you take the best?
You answer in patience and love
He gave me all
And I am his reward

I woke up today hoping it was all a bad dream. May God comfort all of us as we grieve our loss and Rich's gain. I am praying that God will comfort you and carry you through this terrible time of loss. Those of us who only knew him through his music can't begin to know your family's pain, but you are not alone. May our loving Father wrap you in His arms and give you peace in realizing that your son is with the Lord we serve. I have five sons of my

own and know that it would take a miracle of God's grace to make me willingly accept them going home before me. You will remain in my prayers.

In Christ,
Lisa Schea

The morning of September 20th has passed from its mouth one of the greatest men I have ever known. I used to laugh at the thought of falling in love with someone that you never met, someone you never truly got to know. What is it to love a man who has brought you out of darkness, drawn a tear from the hardest of rock, broken the greatest fortress of a man's soul; that the Holy Spirit might do His work. What is it then that lets us love this man that we have never known.

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God"

Without the looks of a soap opera star, without the flash of a well tailored suit, picking up hitchhikers as he moved through our lives, this man quietly rebelled against everything that the world told him was success. Listening to the unproduced piano runs and tangled melodies in his early years with Zion, one can hear a subtle rebellious fire that is sheltered by humility, honor, patience, and love a for Christ. All this from a maverick music student in Cincinnati whose claim to fame at that time was his ever-present bare feet. A man that was somewhat confused by why a stranger would want the shake of his hand, a man that dodged the flash of a camera bulb to try and show us the light of Christ. A man who cried in front of us, a man who laughed with us, a man who told us the truth, a man who lived for Christ. He made us pleasantly uncomfortable, everyone from the record companies, to the churches, to those that sat at his feet. That which made us uneasy was our convictions and transgressions, brought forth by the love and brokenness of one man.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

"Love never fails."

He was one of those kindred souls, those individuals, needing no one but Christ. A man that covered all those he passed with a piece of his heart. He held us a night, when the darkest of nights crept through our souls, he made us laugh when we were ready to give up on God, he made us look inwards as his humility bled through each one of us. With our pride shattered and our insecurities opened before the masses, he simply sang us a song. Those songs brought together our torn hearts, healed our broken bones, healed the wounds that this world brings about. His music didn't depend on the steady hands of a Nashville musician, the ring of perfectly tuned accompaniment, or an illustrious light and sound show. He wrote his music for one purpose, to prepare us to come before the Father, not as denominations, not as scholarly men, but as the children of an Almighty God, stripped of our worldly glory, broken and naked. He wanted us to know that we are called to be one thing. The children that sat at the feet of the Master.

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray, and he laid his hands on them and departed thence."

I do not believe that he would want us to cry and mourn, to let his passing take away from the direction that our lives need to go. He would want us to look toward Christ even more, that even in the midst of our sorrow, that relentless fire that he showed might be kindled in us. Even knowing this, I struggle to find a minute to which his memory doesn't cross my mind when my tears don't fall from sorrow. I never got to sit down and have a Coke with you, I never got to stay up till 4 in the morning and watch old movies with you, I never got to hear you talk about your

childhood, I only knew you heart. but I loved you so very much. My beloved brother in Christ I loved you. I don't know why you are gone, but I know you have saved me so many times. I'll see you soon.

"and I hope that you remember I was your friend."

written by a kid brother of st frank
Matt

I am so sorry to hear about Rich. I went to high school and Cincinnati Bible College with Rich. I loved his music. I don't why God decided to take him now, but we are not to question. I am praying for your family. When Rich was in college, he did a concert one night. They sold tapes of the concert and I still have mine. I have played it so many times. He will be missed by many.

Cindy Jurgens Metzger
Bedford, IN

I know that the Mullins family will, no doubt, be inundated with mail for awhile, but I too would like to pay tribute to the influence Rich Mullin's music has had on my spiritual life. I wish I had written when he was still alive, but I guess the idea didn't occur to me until now...

For most of my high school and college years, I have suffered from depression that stemmed from a variety of sources. I have been a Christian for many years, but joy was a hard thing for me to find. Roughly 3 years ago, i picked up "Winds of Heaven... Stuff of Earth" because i had heard one of the songs on the album. Since then, Rich's music has seen me through some of the high and low points of my life. The 3 CDs of his that i own are among my most-played, and his lyrics echo concepts that i have thought but could

never put into words. Since i know from his song "Creed" that i share his spiritual beliefs, his other music has been comforting concerning my past and future in this world and the next. And the joy in his music is incredible! It's changed my outlook completely.

I know Rich Mullins was not a perfect person by any stretch of the imagination, but he was a wonderful artist, and he sang of a faith i share and peace that i long to experience fully. It is a blessing to know that the stuff of earth could not compete with heaven in his heart. If he was the same kind of person that his music seems to indicate, then i cannot wait to meet him someday.

Melanie Heck

His loss is a great loss. May God take the words he gave us through Rich and apply them to our lives. Our prayers go to his family and friends.

God Bless,

Don Owens

KLTY Promotions Director

I'm really sorry. The music community lost a great warrior.

Bill

My mother just called me from Kentucky and told me that his parents called the church where he taught me Jesus Loves Me when I was a child. Some of my family still go there and they were told this morning. He directed my childrens choir and he was a close friend of my mom's and her brother. I just saw him a year ago in Atlanta and it is kind of sad to think of him as gone. This is what God wanted though and now he is singing "Awesome God" with the angels.

God Bless,
Chris Howard
Georgia Southwestern State University

God will help us get over his loss, and we can be sure that our friends will continue to make music and dance for Him.
Sincerely,
Mike Poliquin

Our loss, Rich's gain! May God use his legacy to honor His son Jesus. "Gone from mystery unto mystery, gone from daylight unto night, another step deeper into darkness, closer to the light"

We'll miss you, Rich. May God bless all of us with faith and testimony like his.

We've lost a good man, but at least he is home with our Lord!

Rich was one of my favorite christian artists and I was fortunate to meet him here in Lubbock about 5 years ago. Knowing that he is with Christ is such a great comfort!
Karen Strange

My heart is broken over his death. He was a big influence on my life. Thank You. 2 Kings 2:11. Php. 1:6
Shane Reed

Now we know he is truly in a better place

Rich is home where he longed to be.
Kelly Hunt

I attended a concert in Dallas at SMU four years ago and at the time I was not truly walking with the Lord. When Rich sang " Hold me Jesus" it went straight to my heart and began a change in me that along with my wife's prayers and several other key things that God orchestrated brought me into relationship with Jesus. My best friend in Dallas was similarly affected. We saw Rich at Grace Chapel, the church we now attend and it was a blessing. I have been intending to write Rich to tell him of the affect that song had on two lost souls but had not yet done it. I know he is in heaven with Jesus and he knows the affect he had on me and my friend, Joe, and the many others who heard his words and music. We will be praying.

Tom C.

My Condolences to the family and friends (which go in GREAT NUMBERS) of Mr. Rich Mullins and I hope he got to go out like Elijah!

I know that Rich's songs will always live deep inside of me and others.
In Christ, Adam

I was saddened to hear of Rich's death. We worked a week of camp together about ten years ago, and his brother was on my wing at Johnson Bible College. Please extend our condolences to his family. His music is wonderful!

Sincerely Yours,
Stephen P. Fierbaugh

I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Mullins. I am grateful that I was able to see him in concerts, and that he was able to bless the world with his music and desire to bring the world to Christ. I will miss him.

Gene Cole

He was much loved, and will be severely missed by all.

Martin J. Maxwell,
Phoenix, AZ

I hope and pray that God will help you, as he has helped me, to see how blessed we are to be His children and to know that we are somehow forever changed by the work that Rich did on this earth. May you find peace in knowing he is wrapped in the Father's arms and will be a beautiful voice in Heaven's choir of angels.

God Bless You,
Jennifer Cole,
Crandall, Texas

My condolences to you all on the death of Rich. I first met him when he came here to Lincoln, Il and gave a concert at our chapel back in 1987 (I think it was then). Of all the Christian artists I have met over the years, he and David Meece rank up there as the most human. Now he stands in glory, seeing Jesus' face.

Jim Smith
Lincoln, IL

The first song I ever heard of his was Hold Me Jesus. At the time I was going through a conversion experience that rattled me big time and felt like I wanted to get to know the person who sang that song. My husband and I bought a CD of his music and it was more of the same. So many of the songs coincided with things that were happening in my life. The first time that we went to one of his concerts (in San Antonio) we brought my mom and two of my best friends. That's what his music is like. It's so universal. The next time he came here we took our two children and met up with some friends there. I had been to many concerts before, mostly of the secular variety, and nothing prepared me for the experience our family had there. I don't know Rich personally, so I don't know exactly why he came out barefoot, but that simple act spoke volumes to me and my husband. My son, who is VERY conservative, and ironically very self-conscious about his own feet, was uncomfortable at first, and then he thought it was pretty cool that a music "star" would not feel like he needed to dress up for all of us. He was nine years old at the time and he told us that Rich Mullins must have wanted to make everyone feel comfortable at his concert, even people who might not have a nice pair of shoes, kind of like Jesus would do. Also during that concert, someone's child was on stage for a time, Ashley Cleveland's I think, and another child from the audience seemed to decide that it was okay if she went up there too. My seven year old daughter, who genuinely loved most of their songs wanted to go up, but we told her that she couldn't. Soon there were several children up there and I am sure there were folks in the audience who thought it was all staged. Because when we finally did let our daughter go, there was a very real feeling that this was so much like when Jesus told the people gathered around him to let the children come. Rich Mullins just went with it. He even asked some of the children what they wanted him to sing. Later she was disappointed because she could think of several songs that she wished she had remembered then.

Our third daughter will be one year old on the 24th of September. She came into the world hearing the songs from A Legend, A Legacy, and a Ragamuffin Band. She'll be hearing his music for some time to come. Thank you God for sharing him with us all.

William Reich

Peace be to his memory and may his music long continue to impact others for Christ.

Sherri Goodwin
Milwaukee, WI

I have been a faithful fan for many years and will miss him and his music very much. But praise God that he is with Him now!
Bruce Van Horn

"Love is found in the things we have given up, more than in the things that we have kept." - Rich Mullins, from "What Susan Said."

We are sad along with you at this time of grief and loss... Rich will be missed. It is comforting to know that the Jordan no longer waits for him to cross thru.
Jesse Luckado

God has said his work is done here and has called him home.
Regards, Nicodemus Chan

I was devastated this afternoon when I heard the news. I am a relatively recent fan and have grown to love Rich's songs. I play bass in a contemporary Christian group at church - last week we did Damascus Road and Elijah for church! I wanted to express my sympathy to you. It seems a colder, quieter world, although for Rich I guess he finally knows what those stars look like as he "looks back" on them.

Chuck Morgan
Monroe, LA

God has blessed me with Rich's music, perhaps no other Artist, let alone a Christian Artist can I more agree with than Rich. I am sad over his death, but understand he is at peace with the awesome God we serve. I am at a loss of words but I care for those close to Rich.

Jerry

I am writing to you to send my deepest heart felt sympathies. I was stunned, shocked, and so very upset. I just could not believe what I was hearing, my heart filled with grief and my eyes with tears. Rich had filled my heart to over flowing with his wonderful songs, I sing them with all I have, especially to my favorite "The Creed". I have had the awesome opportunity to see many of his videos, and feel the Holy Spirit at work through his songs. Please remember Rich says "I believe what I believe", so we can have peace knowing he is with our Lord whom he loves so very much. I pray that our Father send His peace and loving comfort to all who mourn this tragic loss,

Love in Christ,
Janice

Although tragic from a human perspective, it's not difficult to accept; knowing the faith Rich witnessed to the world and where he is now.

Mike

My husband and I have been faithful fans of Rich Mullins for years and are devastated by the news of his death. We are youth pastors for a catholic church in Green Bay, WI, and our youth are often touched by his music. The world will certainly seem a bit empty without his music. May you know Christ's peace

- Teresa M. Sergott

Rich will be a blessed and great presence in Heaven. He will be missed!!

Our condolences - we loved Rich very much & were ministered to by his incredible talent. We know he is with the one he loved the most- JESUS.

Mike & Marti

His songs led me into Christianity. All I know is, he was a great man, and now he is happy. I'll be praying for you. And just remember his most famous song: Our God is an Awesome God...

Katie Lindsay

"There is One True Love, in this world of lies and after all that I've gone through I've found, I find there's only One True Love."
--Rich Mullins

What I really want to say is that Rich is by far my favorite artist. I became a Christian 3 years ago at the age of 16, and about 6 months later, I fell in love with his music, which was probably strange for a 16 year old, since there are so many other kinds of Christian music that appeal more to teens. I had the opportunity to meet him while on a mission trip in Chicago, where he put on a special concert for the students on the trip. I also saw him in concert most recently in Omaha, NE on Valentine's day of this past year.

Rich's music and his incredibly love for Jesus had a huge impact in my life. He lived such a humble life and desired to serve Jesus in everything he did. One of my best memories of him is from the concert in Omaha. He ended with the song, "Sometimes by step," and the last time through the chorus, he stopped playing the guitar and just sang with the audience, "Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you." Every person in the audience must've had their eyes closed, and when the song ended, we opened our eyes, and he was gone. He had quietly slipped off the stage, wanting to give all the glory to Jesus Christ.

I rejoice knowing that he lives on in heaven right at this moment, and can't even imagine the joy he must be feeling right now!! God chose to use Rich to reach many people for the glory of Christ, and continue to praise God for his life and impact on my life.

In Jesus,
Sarah Howard

Christian music lost it's heart today.
Tom

In the death of Rich Mullins, it is now time to pray for all who enjoyed his music and ministry!

In Christ,
Wayne Parker

Our prayers are with his family, friends and fans in this time of loss. Surely God knows why He has chosen to take Rich home. Blessings to you,
Michelle

We are very saddened about his death -- but know that he is with the Lord, for Our God Is an AWESOME God!
Chuck Shelquist

With my deepest sympathy. I am very saddened that Rich's ministry has been cut short and will miss his music. As I did not have the privilege to know him personally, from all that I have heard It would appear that Rich was dedicated to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore truly a born again Christian That being the case then the only sadness that should be expressed is for the family that must live with this horrific loss, as for Rich he has only beaten us all to that perfect place reserved for those who love the lord Jesus and are called according to his purpose. Thank you for taking the time to read this note and know that the prayers of many are being uttered for the family and friends of Mr. Rich Mullins

Timothy Haycraft

He was an awesome guy, and his humbleness was the best thing about him. At least we have the comfort of knowing that he's with the one he sang about, but one thing I know, the world will miss him.

What a tragedy to lose one of Christ's finest minstrels, but I'm sure he's with Jesus.

Kevin Barrett
Memphis, TN

In my prayers I will keep his family and friends. His music has inspired me sooo much.
God Bless.
-Janelle

Rich's music touched and affected my life in a myriad of different ways. I still remember the Promise Keepers event in Texas a couple of years back. The stadium was packed and a very severe storm was moving in. As the organizers took the stage and tried to shuttle the thousands of men through the three exit gates at one end of the stadium, the rain and wind swept over us. The rain was cold, hard, and HEAVY. The wind was ferocious and blew one entire bank of speakers through the back grandstands (luckily -- praise God -- nobody was there). Anyway, the thing I remember most was, as we were trying to leave the stadium, with things crashing around the group and getting soaked with COLD rain. A song erupted over the group of men and rang out above the rain and wind. It is one I am sure you are familiar with:

"OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME, HE REIGNS FROM HEAVEN ABOVE!!!"

It didn't matter what happened from then on... we knew who was in control... then... and now... Praise God that he allowed Rich to be with us... and leave us with so many great memories and such fantastic music. I know where Rich is singing now... I know God is happy to have him... I am also thankful I will see him again one day!!!

-Jim

Monday, September 22, 1997

I went to many of Rich's concerts and was blessed by his spirit and his ministry. I bet a Heavenly choir was welcoming Rich home with "Our God is an Awesome God..." and Rich probably looked up and thought that his song didn't even come close to doing God justice. He was our generation's Keith Green.

-Doug

Mr. Rich Mullins.

Our pastor spoke about Rich in his sermon this morning. He said that Rich was a friend of his. I only shook Rich's hand once, but I feel like he was a friend of mine, too. No other Christian artist could translate the unspoken words in my soul. Scriptures became so relevant when set to his music. Rich's talent was truly "a fair and glorious gift" from the father. The words "I'll miss him" just don't even come close.

Trusting Him,
-Elisabeth

I can't believe that the Lord has called Rich home. I can't believe it for all of us left here, but man wouldn't you love to have been in Heaven for the welcoming home party for him?!?!?! I imagine Rich is laughing and singing with the Lord as we speak. Maybe instead of tears of sorrow, what we've been hearing and seeing are tears of envy since we all have to miss out on the big party being thrown in Heaven.

-Yvonna

Okay, I know Rich is home now, but we're all still very sad down here on earth. But I was thinking... if we, as Christians, are seated with Christ in Heaven... well then, in a way... like in worship and stuff... we're kinda all together in a sense. So maybe... we aren't really so far removed from those we've lost after all. And if we're surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, the witnesses being the saints of the past, well then Rich is one of them now. And if the church is truly one, than she is made up of the believers in Heaven as well as the believers on earth. So... we aren't really so separated then. Like, when we take communion and stuff... I dunno, I feel like I'm taking communion with everybody, all the saints and apostles and all the believers all over the world, too. I've only been a Christian for about two and a half years now and I'm not totally sure if my thinking is 100% right in these areas or if i'm being a little silly. But I thought I'd share this with you and if it's helpful you can share it with whomever you like. I know Rich's music has helped me a lot in my faith so far and I'm sure it will continue to do so. I know he did the same for many other people as well.

God bless you. :'o)
-Yvonne

My family and I are indeed saddened at the passing of a man who has had a great impact on our lives. Although we never got to see him in concert, we have all of Rich's music, and have listened to it all day today as a tribute to Him and the God to Whom he gave all glory. Rich is now experiencing the awesomeness of our God to the fullest extent! I think God took him Home to write the songs that we will all soon be singing together in Heaven to praise our awesome God! We will miss him greatly, and our deepest sympathies are offered to his close family and friends, but know that he did leave behind a legacy of joy and real compassion.

In the Love of our God Who is never unkind,
-Gary and Jill Leiter and family

Soldotna, Alaska

I'm joyful that he's now in the presence of the Lord, but his ministry has been a real blessing to me. I sure will miss him.
-Dion

Rich Mullins was someone I never met, and never even had the opportunity to see in concert. But he was a man who touched my life in such a deep way, that once he was in my head, it wasn't long before he found my heart and there was no going back. "when I leave I want to go out like Elijah". I know that's how he went.

God is with you during this time...and He is still awesome...
-Shannon Murray

it brings me solace to imagine him in heaven playing the dulcimer to god along with keith green playing his piano...
-josh chuang

He was a man with a passion for God and a ministry in music. His legacy of an Awesome God will forever ring in the souls of Gods worshippers from now until we stand at the throne with Rich directing the holy choir. He was a man with love and a message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I will not mourn his death because he is with the Father where all of us belong. He will be there welcoming us with his heart of praise and rejoicing. May his ministry live on after his earthly death. His soul is forever in the Lords presence. He will be greatly missed. Our home is filled with his music and the message he so wonderfully gave to the world.

In Christ's service and love for the Mullins family

-Debra Smith

Everett, WA

I share your thoughts on Rich. God gave him the ability to write great songs. It is too bad when we think of all the songs left unwritten. But this is God's plan.

-Scott Goering

"Sorrow is better than laughter, for when a face is sad, a heart may be happy."

-Ecclesiastes 7:3

I would like to remember Rich Mullins, not for who he was, for I know he wouldn't want that, but for what he did.

As a teenager growing up in the midwest, I faced a lot of the same problems that every teenager does - low self esteem, doubt, wondering who I was and how I fit in and what I was supposed to be. Sometimes I would lie awake at night feeling hurt and confused and angry at God, wondering just what He wanted from me.

Fortunately, at that time (the early '80's) contemporary Christian music was beginning to be more and more popular, and many nights I drifted off to sleep to the sounds of Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Bryan Duncan, WhiteHeart and many others. One of my favorite songs (I had a lot of favorites!) was Elijah, by a songwriter turned singer named Rich Mullins.

"When I leave I wanna go out like Elijah,
with a whirlwind to fuel my chariot of fire.
And when I look back on the stars,
it'll be like a candlelight in Central Park,
and it won't break my heart to say goodbye"

Although I never had the chance to meet him personally, as I did

other artists, Rich touched my life many times in the years to follow. I was able to see him play in concert several times, and neither his enormous God given talent - he didn't just write songs and play music, he painted pictures with them- nor the fact that he gave it all back to God, escaped me. My younger sister, after coming home from a Christian camp, was bubbling with excitement over the way someone as famous as Rich Mullins had sat down and eaten lunch with her and her friends, and played soccer with some of the others. "He was just like one of the guys!" she said.

Indeed, almost every time you heard someone say more than a sentence or two about him, some form of the word "humble" was bound to come up. His devotion to those in less fortunate circumstances was remarkable. In a world where big talent is usually equated with big dollars, he stood out as a man of simple means. He chose to build up treasures in heaven rather than a worldly purse, freely sharing the love of Christ with everyone he came into contact with.

Reflecting on the life of this simple man, I realize that I could be doing so much more with what God has given me. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us, so we should live each day as though it were our last. Just like Elisha in days of old, my prayer is that God will give me a double portion of Rich's spirit. While I am saddened by our loss, I rejoice in knowing that someday I will meet him and we will join together in singing praises to our King! I am confident that there is no place that he'd rather be than where he is now.

In the meantime, I, like countless others, am left with a glow in my heart from the legacy of his ministry in my life. Funny, but it seems to be a lot like the glow of a certain chariot.

-Shawn A. Key
Ballwin, MO

I have no concerns about where Rich is, but am having trouble with

the thoughts of missing his ministry in music and songwriting.

-Kelly Clark
North St Paul, Minnesota

My husband and I, we share the sense of loss and yet there is joy in knowing that he "gave his life to see His face"!

-elisa

I greatly appreciated the ministry of Rich Mullins. I had the privilege of recently attending one of his concerts. I was tremendously encouraged and blest by his music ministry.

-Brian Martin
Eastland Hills Baptist Church
Choctaw, OK

Rich has blessed me through his music so much. His life was a testimony to faith. He was a messenger reminding us we are not strong as we think we are and that we had to look beyond the wisdom of this age to the foolishness of God so we will find peace. Rich is being held by Jesus, The Prince of Peace. I miss him.

Kevin Price

I will always remember him as a humble servant, gifted musician, and living sacrifice. May his faith live on in each of us, the lives he touched.

a touched heart,
-Heather

We are praying for your family for grace and peace to heal the wound that only God can give. The ministry of Rich was inspiring to us all. May God richly bless you and comfort you.

In Christ's love,
-Susan Devereaux,
Junction City, Oregon

He was very inspirational to me in many ways. God truly used him to touch the masses, if not to challenge those he differed with.

Sincerely,
-Matt Ohime
-Taylor student and Rich fan

Nobody knows how much Rich's music touched my heart, my soul... my life... I met Rich once on his "farewell tour" for The World As Best As I Remember It, Volume One... He was so nice and wonderful, especially to my son Christopher... In fact, Rich's first words on stage that night was "Hi Christopher"... I will not tell you my favorite Rich Mullins song as there are too many... I guess I should just thank God for him...

As Rich once sang:
"Peace of Christ to you"
-Robert

I am a young youth minister and lyricist that was and is inspired by Rich's life and body of work. He was the best writer of our time, for his lyrics conveyed and inspired deep emotion and

spiritual reflection. Though it seems he would shun such praise and adulation, I must write to tell you that his words move me to a closer walk with the Father. As a writer, it is my goal to be able to write "Rich Mullins lyrics," words that point people to God in a new and different way. Thank you for his life and his legacy. My prayers are with you. May you experience the peace that passes understanding that only our Father can provide.

Sincerely,

-Ken Davis

Youth and Music Minister

Calvary Baptist Church,

Dayton, Texas

My name is Jennifer Larson. I'm a DJ at a Christian Hit Radio Station out of Eastern Washington. To the family or our friend and brother Rich, we send our love, all of us here at Way FM play Rich's music every day. I need to tell you that His songs are the most requested during my shift from 6-midnight weeknights. If I can encourage you with these words, I would like to assure you that if you are faithful, you will without a doubt see Rich again. We all will. Won't it be amazing to be in heaven and know time will be no more! We will never have to say "Goodbye" again. Read Revelation chapters 20 and 21. 21:4 says..He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be NO MORE DEATH, or sorrow or crying, neither will there be anymore pain, for the former things are passed away. Praise God! In the midst of our great sorrow, God wants to give us hope.

"For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." All the answers and comfort you need are in the bible. The truth, the life, the happiness, and peace we so desire all comes to us through His holy Spirit, and My prayer is that you find your strength in Him, and rest in his arms of love. He can give us all a peace that passes our earthly understanding. I love you all, and you are in my prayers personally, and as a Radio Station. Our Listeners send their prayers, and support as well.

God be with you,
-Jennifer

I'd like to say that the time that God allowed Rich to be here and influencing the lives of so many people was a great gift to all of us. What Rich did during his life is precious and important and valuable and can never be lost, because it bound up in the growth and lives of a lot of different people. We, many thousands of people whom y'all have never even met, are all richer because of this man whom you loved. Thank you for investing in his life so that he could invest in ours. I pray that God will be with you and comfort you now.

In condolence,
Eliza Fulton

I am a transfer student at UNC-Greensboro and I so loved Rich's "Our God Is An Awesome God." His music was so inspiring. Someday we will all be together with Rich.
Edward Senior

I am a fellow ragamuffin, and I thank God for the time that He used Rich to minister to us. The World As Best As I Can Remember It was the first CD I bought after I was born again, and Rich and Beaker's music has not let go of me since. I was so amazed there was Christian music that was so real and honest.

My prayers go out to Rich's family and friends;
Eleanor Kastelein

Ever since I first saw Rich in concert in 1989, where I picked up my first cassette of "Winds of Heaven", his music has been with me. I asked him to sign it. He signed "Be God's". That rather sums up his attitude, I think. For over 8 years his music has been there, practically daily. Even when I fell away, I couldn't stop listening to his music, and gently, patiently, God used that to bring me back.

Kate

Rich Mullins has been a continuous source of encouragement for me and many dear friends; a role model, a true brother in our faith. We feel a great loss, yet we know and rejoice in that his joy is now made perfect. It makes me smile to think that someday I'll meet him in heaven. But the tears that we now shed are tears of gratitude, of nostalgia, and yes, of pity for ourselves. We shall miss him sorely. My prayers are with his family and friends, and all of those who, like me, were touched by his ministry.

A friend and I went on a long hike on Saturday, and we sang Rich's songs for many long miles -- it is impossible to see the wonders of creation and not think of Rich's lyrics.

Thanks be to God who gave us such a precious gift in Rich Mullins!

Gabriela Canilizo

I loved his music and the talent that he shared with the world to praise God.

Love and Prayers,
Stephanie Eddy

Thanks for sharing with us all the songs the Father gave you to

give us.

Oh..... the ironies..... you always did say it
best.....

"But when I leave I want to go out like Elijah With a whirlwind to
fuel my chariot of fire And when I look back on the stars It'll be
like a candlelight in Central Park And it won't break my heart to
say goodbye....."

kate

My wife introduced me to Rich Mullins 4 years ago through "a
liturgy, a legacy...." while we were dating transatlantically.
LitLeg Rag mirrored perfectly many of our concerns, spiritually
and the fear of the awesome steps we were both taking, getting
married and I moving from my home country of Ireland. Both the
music and the lyrics would move me to tears during my darker
moments when all seemed lost, when visa's were not happening, when
we broke up and got back together again over the phone. God used
that album to hold us together in a way which transcended love on
a human plane. I found myself on my face worshipping because of
the great power behind the frailty in the songs. (I can do all
things through Christ who STRENGTHENS me). The music is an
amalgam of roots evoking Irish, appalachian, jazz levelling
charges that Christ centered music is bland. Sadly, I did not
thank him (although he would have given the glory to God anyways),
I'll thank him someday soon, please God.

Pax Christi to all of you !!!
Eamonn Mac Crossan
Simpsonville, South Carolina

Thank you Rich Mullins, for your music and for your life. I pray

that we will all be inspired and motivated by your real, relevant faith to live our lives focused entirely on Christ. I would also like to tell Rich's family how sorry I am for their loss, and that our prayers are with them.

Rich's songs and life were a blessing from God to those of us who struggle to explain the wonder of God's grace through music.

Our thoughts are with you, and our prayers are for you as you cling to the hope of the resurrection. May god have mercy on us all.

-George Baum
Lost And Found

Mom Mullins,

My wife Celeste and I wanted to let you know that you have been in our prayers since we heard the news of Rich's passing. He blessed us so much through his music and concerts, we will miss him a lot. Dave and his family are very dear friends, through time spent with them we feel like we know you as well as the rest of your children. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you all. We understand the Scripture, "to live is Christ and to die is gain," but the loss of someone still hurts because we will miss that physical presence in our lives. We look forward to the day when we will again!

Longing to be in His presence,
bob gailey

Rich had to be without doubt the single biggest reason that I am going into the ministry. The songs that he wrote have lifted me up when I was down, brought me back to earth when I was getting to stuck on myself, and always have managed to turn my thoughts to the One that should have had them in the first place. I will miss

this man whom I never had the chance to meet, yet seemed to be the mentor that I needed as I searched for the Lord's will for my life and career.

-Mark Unbehagen

I met him several years ago at a song writer's conference. His ministry dramatically affected my approach to song writing. I will miss him.

Sincerely,
-Doug Clark

To Mrs. Mullins,

Hi I'm a guy from Singapore studying in Hawaii and I'm a believer in the Lord Jesus. Rich indeed has been an inspiration to many and I have heard about the way that he lives his life for Christ and that shows that he is faithful.

Agape
-Caleb

In my years of association with Christian music, Rich Mullins has stood out as one of the greatest inspirational songwriters of our time. His honest lyrics have encouraged believers everywhere to live wholeheartedly for Christ. Mr. Mullins was truly a gift from God. Not only have we lost an exceptional poet and musician, but also a challenging man of the faith. Our only solace comes from God and the fact that Rich knew his Maker and perhaps today sings melodies and lyrics that surpass those he penned on earth. Again, to his family and those who knew him best, I am truly sorry. Know that you are in the hearts and prayers of us all.

Sincerely,
-Carey Dyer

I just want everyone to know that Rich Mullins' music had a profound impact on my life. I am musician you see and a songwriter as well and as I was forming what and who I am today as a musician, Rich's music directed my course. His writing was so incredible and lifted up our blessed Savior. I hope to have the same impact someday on someone. Thanks Rich... we'll miss you buddy!

James Tallent

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your son. I'm sure the grief you feel must be tremendous. If there is any relief it is that many people are grieving around the country with you.

But thank Jesus that there is joy in the morning! The true comfort, when all is said and done, is that he is home! I'm sure you have heard these lyrics before from your son, but I would like to quote them to you anyway.

"And now the storm is fading And the night is through And everything you sent to shake me From my dreams they come to wake me In the love I find in you And now the morning comes

And I can see the things that really matter Become the wings you send to gather me home I'm going home"

We love you,

Patrick and Evie Norberg

I too have been listening to Rich Mullins over the last 15 years and have some of his cd's. I know that he is in Heaven now with his Jesus. Father , we pray that you will give peace and comfort to the family of Rich Mullins at this time of their lives as they mourn the loss of this brother. Let them know that they will see him again in Paradise one day soon.

In His Name
James Moffitt

Thank you for this opportunity to honor the life of a dear brother in Christ. I did not know him personally but his music allowed me to look on his life and see Jesus and Rich through it. In dealing with all of my own personal hurts and sorrows, I found that Rich's music (really God's music through Rich) met me with comfort and a reminder of the awesomeness and the power of God. As one of his songs said,

"But when I leave I want to go out like Elijah With a whirlwind to fuel my chariot of fire And when I look back on the stars Well, It'll be like a candlelight in Central Park And it won't break my heart to say goodbye"

God has now brought a dear friend home to glory. I just hope that I desire God to the same extent or more as I press on to leave a legacy for Jesus. It will be a great day to worship God together with all of the saints (including Rich Mullins).

Remembrance in Christ,
Aaron Pugh

I have no words to adequately express my feelings. He was a gifted musician and lyricist; both his words and music spoke to me and touched me. He got to the working heart of scripture and expressed it in a way that was real. I will miss the music that he will never write, but I'm so glad I know the music he did write. The Jordan is waiting, Rich, and thanks for everything. I know you were ready; it may not break your heart to say good-bye, but it does break mine. You will be missed.

PS - My 4 year-old daughter's favorite song is "Sometimes by Step", only she knows it as "Oh God, You are my God". "Mommy, play 'Oh God You are my God' for me!" Then she sings and dances around the room with it. A memory to cherish.

Virginia Mayne

Rich's music touched many of us deeply, music of depth, substance, metaphors of heart-breaking authenticity and hope. I never got to hear him in a live performance, but my son did this summer at Cornerstone. he was greatly blessed.

God bless you and Rich's family.

-Dr. Bruce L. Edwards

Bowling Green State University

Even though I never met him personally, I feel that I have lost a friend. Please pray for his family and for Mitch but also pray for the truck driver. Even though he and we all know he was not at fault, he will have to live with this forever. He needs to know the love of the body of Christ and of Christ himself.

Susan Clark

His songs gave me hope when I was hopeless, strength when I was weak, and joy when I was sorrowful. His songs will live on after him, still spreading the word of the Lord. In my heart I will carry on his music and in my soul I will try to live his words. Rich is in heaven today and I look forward to the day when I can hear him sing again.

Kevin Ku

In my mind, and in my heart, I consider Rich a modern-day prophet... a man of God, speaking the truth even when it wasn't the most popular thing to say.

Love, from one of your brothers in the Lord,

-John Boor

"Seek first the kingdom of God... "

Rich and his music had such an impact on our lives (as well as the lives of countless others.) Our family met him at a concert several years ago, and it was evident by listening to him sing and by talking to him that he was completely sold out to God. What an example! What an encouragement!

We know where Rich is, and someday we'll be with him again!
Praise God!

We must stay focused on Jesus and look to the day when we will all sing together at Home.

In Jesus' perfect love.
Praying for all of you,
-Bob and Carolyn Compton
Canton, GA

Please pray with me: "O God, you ARE an AWESOME God. You reign with wisdom, power and grace. We all too often do not understand that wisdom, power and grace, but Rich certainly tried to himself and he helped all of us in that endeavor. Thank you Lord, for sharing Rich with us if for only a little while, and thank you for his music which will live on until all of us go up like Elijah. You ARE an AWESOME God and we Praise your name! AMEN.

I've been a fan of Rich's for many years. I've just returned from a weekend retreat with our youth group. We sang and listened to much of his music during the retreat and I know it had a great impact on our youth, hopefully, as great an impact as his music has had on me. I had the honor and privilege of seeing Rich in concert just a few months ago for the first time. I sat in the second row and was only 20 feet away from him and was totally impressed with his humbleness. As I read comments from someone else about him leaving the stage while the audience was singing "Step by Step", I realized that he probably did that all the time. That moment was one of the highlights of the concert for me and I have shared with many of my friends about it. I, too, had my eyes closed with my hand raised in Praise to God - when we finished singing, and I opened my eyes and looked on stage - Rich was gone. I immediately had a feeling of overwhelming loss, sadness, and yet, joy. At that moment, I had a flash of the Holy Spirit and it seemed in a way as though I had been looking at the cross, but Jesus wasn't there anymore! What sadness at His loss, but what joy because I knew, HE IS ALIVE. Step by step, I will follow. May we all learn to walk in His way, and may we learn from the humbleness of our Christian brother Rich that it is much more powerful to serve than be served. Rich, you touched my life, and whenever I look up and see pictures in the sky, I shall remember you.

-YBIC,
Carl

Though I never knew Rich personally, all you had to do was listen to his music to know that Jesus Christ was Lord of not only his

ministry but his life! There was a time in my life that I had trouble finding Christ, but then one day I heard Rich sing "Hold Me Jesus". Hearing this song was if Christ had spoken to me, and I too learned to stop beating my head against those walls and found peace in the arms of my personal Savior. Thank you Rich for Loving Christ so I he could come to me through you!

-Scott Yawn and Family

I have been a Christian for just about three years now and I can truly say that Rich has been one of the largest influences in my walk with God. He has been such a tremendous blessing to me and my wife. His music has been and will continue to be a blessing to millions.

-Eric and Stacy Fite and Family

I have at so many times entered into worship while listening to "Our God is an Awesome God"! I praise God for giving us Rich Mullins to lead us to our ultimate source of hope and help! I will miss him and his music! Blessings and peace to his family.

-Lin Joyce

Herndon, Virginia

Rich was an incredibly talented and giving man. He (and Mitch) meant so much to my best friend and I. We've followed Rich's work for many years and he blessed our lives in a way no other has.

Rich always took time even for "the least of these" - always a kind word, picture or autograph for a fan. As I sit here at my desk, I look at a framed picture of Rich, me and my friend, signed "Be God's, Rich Mullins." It is my hope that I can live up to this challenge. God's peace and comfort,

-Lara Schroeder

I weep as I know that Rich is now singing "the song not sung in vain." I tend to think that when God reveals Himself so fully to a mere man, the only means for further growth is for mortality to be changed to immortality. Rich is now before the face of God. His greatest songs were only vague hints at the glory he is now experiencing.

Rich allowed me to see God in everyday life. "Land of My Sojourn" is a superb example of this. We [believers] are all citizens of heaven (Filipinos 3:20).

C. Rompton

The many times he mentioned dying in his songs made me wonder... Now I know that he knew he was leaving. But it's not all sad: now he's hanging out with Keith Green. - Till we meet again Rich.
Guiseppe

The DJ put it well, I thought: Heaven has another performer in the Concert of the Age, perhaps its first hammered dulcimer player. His ministry touched me, and I know that it touched countless others. But I also know God and the rest of the kingdom have welcomed him in, and that God freely gives the Comforter in times like these.

-Kim Nies

In June my wife Kathy faced major cancer surgery. Unable to sleep the night before her trip to the hospital we prayed and sang together, and every song was written by Rich and our lord and savior Jesus.

Throughout her stay in the hospital her walkman was playing Rich Mullins albums and was her testimony to the staff of the hospital.

Michael Bowler

Dear Mullins Family,

There were times when I'd cry listening to his music, because it touched me as it brought the Holy Spirit in me to the forefront.

The last time I saw him was a little less than a year ago at a concert in Cincinnati, Ohio. I never knew him personally, but he affected me and so many others very deeply.

I have a video of him and some of his videos that I will cherish forever.

God blessed all of us with Rich, and now Rich is home. I'll never look at the color green the same way again.

-John J. Davis

But as Rich says "I'll meet you in that place where mercy leads!"

-Anna

We don't know what to say. We don't know what to do. Funny how the death of somebody you never met can sadden you so. It hurts as bad a friend's death. His music has taught us things, lifted us up, and touched our lives in every way. Lord, comfort his family and close friends. I know their loss and pain is far greater than mine. Comfort Mitch's family and minister to his heart and injuries. Rich's life was for God. His death makes no

sense. My only real comfort comes from knowing he is home now and happy.

"When I look back on the stars
it will be like a candle light in Central Park
and it won't break my heart to say goodbye." -- Elijah

Rodney and Cindy Grady
Madison, AL

I am reminded of the fact that for Christians..to be absent from the body is to be present with the Father. If we are saved, we will see him again. Please assure the family that I will be praying for them.

Sincerely,
Wes Driggers

Rich Mullins has had more impact on my life than any other songwriter. Looking at the list of his songs you had compiled just reminded me of the impact on my life and the overwhelming sense of loss I'm experiencing.

I play and sing in a country/bluegrass/ballad group (banjo/mandolin, fiddle, bass, guitars) at our church. We played at our church last night (for only the second time). When we performed "Home" by the Gaithers I thought, "This song is about Rich--he's Home." This morning my wife told me that, when we started singing "Home" last night, my 12-year-old daughter turned to my wife and said, "This song is about Rich; he's Home." I have been playing guitar about 30 years (self-taught when in high school). I enjoy playing many of Rich's songs. I would like to work up a medley as a tribute to Rich, his love, life and music.

Don Seher

My husband and I attended CBC years ago with Rich and have continued to keep in touch with him over the years. We never miss a concert when he is in our area. The angels surely have a new music director. Rich was the most committed, Godly man I have ever known. His purity in motivation was almost inhuman. He truly and intimately knew his Savior, and his faith has given us all hope.

Dee Ann and Ashley Turner

We are so sad for ourselves but so joyful for Rich as he has passed into a better place where his music will have no bounds and the Lord can smile on him.

Rich's music brings our family hope, love and happiness in a place and time when it seems there is so much darkness in the world. When we feel down or in despair we turn on Rich's music and it gives us the strength to go on. My children also love his music and he is passing the Lord's values to them.

Rich will continue to live in his music. The Legacy, the Music, the Message will never die, it will carry on... God comfort you in your sorrow and our prayers are with you.....

Jane, Kevin, Matthew, Melissa, Benjamin, Sarah, Jonathan Ku
Overland Park, Kansas

He had such a tremendous impact on my life and I feel so blessed to have been able to hear him in concert. While we are so sad for ourselves, I know the angels are rejoicing in heaven. Can you just imagine Rich leading all of heaven is singing "Our God is an Awesome God"? My prayers go out to his family.

Val McLean

I personally was introduced to Rich's music about 5 years ago, and was particularly drawn to his lyrics about the prairies and the plains and places like Wichita and Nebraska and such. The last Rich Mullins tape I purchased had a Compassion International solicitation in it, with Rich's plea for ministering to Native American children. This too, touches my heart, for my own father is a full-blood Native American Christian (born on the reservation north of Topeka) with a heart for sharing the gospel with his people. Please extend my condolences to Rich's family. We will all miss him greatly.

God bless you,
Darlene Young

My condolences to the family of Rich Mullins. I had never attended his concerts Until this last June in Odessa, TX. It was a benefit concert for Compassion International. What a musician. What a christian. What a testimony for all Christian artists to follow. I sat on the first row and soaked it all in. When he brought the concert home, he was talking about how we spend our days. We don't think about tomorrow. He was a great man. His music is more powerful than any around. He was always focused on the praise of the Father. I will be praying for you.

In The Name Of Jesus Christ,
Julie Wenger

Rich Mullins came to Akron, OH about 2 years ago, and he sang for us even though he was sick and losing his voice. He wasn't up there for money or fame. He wanted to praise God. He seemed to be the most humble down-to- earth guy. I wish I had had a chance

to meet him. I wish I could have told him how his music has touched me. Well, perhaps someday I will.

Rachel Scherer

My prayers are with Rich's family. Rich has been such an inspiration for millions and in his passing, he has awakened the true meaning of life. We must all live it to it's fullest!!! God Bless you all.

Love,
Rebecca McFaul

For us, Rich was more than an entertainer, he was a vital part of our family. With three teen age daughters in our home, we have grown up with Rich's music and been blessed to see him perform several times throughout the years. His music brought all of us joy, encouragement and a longing for a place called Heaven, and a home we had never seen. He will be truly missed.....

The Dix Family,
Royal Palm Beach, Florida

I was so sad to hear of Rich's death. I guess some things in life you just take for granted, and Rich and his music would fall into that category. He and his music were always there, glorifying God. He will be missed greatly.

Tony Inserro

We had worked with Rich at camp in Michigan(Rock Lake Christian

Assembly) and he came and did a concert at the high school where my husband teaches many years ago. He truly was a "Pied Piper" with young adults. We appreciated him, his love for the Lord and his ministry through music. He was a wonderful person who we had the privilege to know. We are deeply saddened by his loss and pray for you loss.

In Christian love,
Everett Smith and Family
Elsie, MI

Rich Mullins was truly a man after God's heart. I have been moved and touched so much by his music. We are mourning and the Angels are rejoicing today. May his legacy carry on forever.

Carole Larson

Rich Mullins' soul communicated with my soul. We shared quiet times of praise and adoration for our Lord. I never met him, but I felt him take a piece of my heart with him when he left this world. He will be remembered and admired. I hope that we will leave as great of legacy behind as he did. Reach people while we can.

A Brother :(
ron b.

I can see him now singing praises to God... sweet, because, quite simply... He's with Jesus... try to imagine that... We'll never know on this side of eternity how many lives, including mine, he touched... Our prayers are with you.

Sam Reyes

The journey just became a little bit more difficult for the rest of us. Rich Mullins was a source of warmth in a cold world - the light of Christ shining through him. Praise God that we will always have his music as a source of comfort and inspiration. Like many of you, I have been so deeply troubled by Rich's passing - a man I did not know personally. Let us be inspired and catalyzed by the example of his life and his ministry - and keep the CDs playing in the background as we do the work of the Lord. That's the priority Rich Mullins would give to the gifts he gave us.

Rick Martinez

I don't know what to say but after reading everything else I wanted to say something... i just wanted to let someone know that i'm heartbroken too... and i'm praying... and i miss rich.

We have lost a wonderful brother! I look forward to seeing him again one fine day when we will all worship in one holy band before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. My father was one of the people who welcomed Rich home. I look forward to seeing them both again.

A sis in Christ,
Doris.

Rich was one of many in the Christian Music Industry that lent their hearts to "the least of these" the children doomed by abortion and their mothers who hurt and needed the Lord. While he was one of many... really he was one of a kind. He always did what he could not looking to what he could get out of it, but what

he could do to benefit those of us who have fought so long and hard to bring the Gospel of Life to a nation who allows abortion as it's law. He was one who helped the movement understand that laws and the grande efforts to change the bad ones were doable because of an Awesome God who lives with power and might.

I will pray for you and yours and those whose hearts still long for and hurt for the deep we all share.

Jerry Horn
Sr. Vice President
Priests for Life

"If I sing, let me sing with the joy, that has born in me these songs. And if I weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his home."

He's longing for his home no more... God blessed him and me through him. "And it won't break my heart... "

Mike Ehret

His songs were poems of a repentant heart, blistering in the heat of struggle. His willingness to share his struggle is what makes his ministry so terribly special to me. I don't think I have ever met anyone with who I could relate so fully. After an hour or so of crying, I am beginning to realize just how much Rich has longed to be with God and how fulfilled he is. While his songs were touching to our ears, his music is now effortless and perfect, directed to the One for whom he tried so desperately to honor.

When I heard my first Rich Mullins song, I recognized a kindred

spirit who longed for true understanding of God, and who struggled with the knowledge that there was so much to learn and so little time in which to do it. It seemed Rich strained against the limitations that this world placed on him, and his restlessness to learn and to grow echoed my own restlessness. I can only pray he is in the arms of the Lord, now; and recall the words of St. Augustine who said, "Our hearts are restless, Lord, until they rest in you."

Peace of Christ to you, Rich... see you soon.

Deborah Vornholt

Until we all are around the throne where I am sure we will be singing Awesome God. That song is one that causes the heart to soar and bow before the throne.

Sharyn Baer
San Antonio, TX

He is in the place though were mercy leads.
Sachiko Brown

I hope that doesn't sound selfish, considering his great gain, but my sorrow is for those who are left behind. It's tough to lose a hero of the faith. I still remember being introduced to his music when I was in college. The first Christian music tape I ever bought was one of his. And he was the first Christian artist I ever saw in concert. There certainly was a dazzling clarity about his life, and in an odd way I feel privileged to have the chance to mourn him. He was a lion of the faith and an inspiration to thousands, maybe millions, of people all over the world. But I'm joyfully certain that Jesus has welcomed Rich with an overwhelming

hug and that there are tears of joy being shed by both of them!

I hope you will take comfort in knowing that many people share your sorrow, as well as in knowing that the pure in heart shall someday see God and, I think, each other.

Love in Christ,
Laura Risler

Such a man divinely gifted with the wisdom of God! My most favorite line: "Stuff of earth competes for the allegiance I owe only to the Giver of all good things."

Bryan Dickerson

I am still in awe to hear of Rich's death. I did not know Rich personally, although I feel like I did from listening to his music. I was very much ministered to by his words in his music.

My prayers are with the family. I thank God for allowing Rich to minister to us during his time here on earth. I continue to pray that soon we will all be in Glory with God and all of our friends and family which have gone before us.

Rich ministered to adults as well as small children. My daughter who is 6 yrs.old, has learned hand motions to "Awesome God" at the catholic school she attends. She knows all the words and sings it all the time.

I am very thankful for having the opportunity to hear the ministry of Rich Mullins and the impact it has made on people around the world. He was indeed a humble servant of God.

I can just imagine the joy that he is experiencing in heaven now. With all the choirs, along with his wonderful music ministry.

May God be with you and your family. Remember always, just as

Rich said in one of his songs, We will all go through tough times but hold on to Jesus. He will be there for you. May God give you the strength and courage to continue the way Rich would want you to continue.

Dyann Matta
Carrollton, TX

To the family of Rich Mullins:

I offer heartfelt condolences. May it comfort you to know how many, many lives Rich touched through his music. My class of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders have been working on "Awesome God" in their music lessons for the past 3 weeks. This week, they will sing it to honor Rich. Let it also be a comfort to know that this awesome man is with his God.

Susan Baker

I had the pleasure of seeing Rich and Beaker when they came to Honolulu a few years ago. He was so funny. I will never forget what he said when he was given a beautiful lei while he was sitting at the piano. "This smells better than the garlic bread I have been burping!" The concert ended with a wonderful time of worship. After the concert was over he came out and signed autographs and took pictures with people, he was so nice, he always had a smile on his face. I will always be thankful to God for that wonderful experience.

David and Becky Lowery

Lord, Thank you for all the wonderful ways you used Rich and for all the people you used him to touch in a special way. Help his

family, friends, and fans grieve for his loss here, but rejoice in Your gain there. Give them all comfort and peace. I know He loved you very, very much. amen.

In Christ's everlasting love
Becky Lowery
Mountain Home, Idaho

His music meant so much to me, and to my friends and family. In January, 1995, my mother was diagnosed with cancer. I brought "A Liturgy, A Legacy & A Ragamuffin Band" and she listened to "Hold Me Jesus" over & over again. The song comforted her, calmed her, reminded her of the watchful eye of our Savior. I always meant to write to Rich and tell him how much that song (and so many of his others) meant to us. He was very special

Melissa Kessel

Mrs. Mullins,

I can only image the home Rich grew up in. I am a parent and hope to do as you have done, raise my children in the presence of God, so they will become a servant of His glory. No words can take away pain, simply know his words drew me closer to Christ. May the gently Spirit of God hold you now.

In Christ Love,
R.T.

I wanted to add my voice to the chorus here of people whose lives have been touched by Rich and his wonderful music and friends. Having grown up in Richmond, I have always felt a special affinity for Rich and his music. I have always been able to related, from the songs about indiana clay to the pounding of creed. Rich

challenged, inspired, and pushed me upwards in my walk with God. Now that Rich is gone, I feel the lose of a great brother, and cry but knowing he is in a better place. My heart goes out to Rich's family in their time of loss.

To his mother and the rest of the family, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for allowing the world to share your son. He goes on to heaven having left not the thumbprint of himself, but of his master on countless lives.

Phil Foster

Everyone at our home was deeply saddened by Rich's death. I was just telling a friend on Friday night how blessed we had been by the depth of emotion and spirit stirred by his music. He was so real and so vulnerable, that we see hope in difficult places. Not many are open enough to bless others in this way. I have personally be challenged to follow his example in my testimony to those I reach. The Spirit is interceding on our behalf, with sounds our hearts only feel in Rich's lose. Our sympathy and prayers to his family.

Maranatha!

Teri ><>

"AWESOME GOD" was my first taste of Contemporary Christian Music since then Rich Mullins was my favorite.. My 12 year old son loved Rich Mullins as well. His favorite song was "Boy like me", he really could relate to that song. Our prayers are with Rich's family. Rich will be missed by my family so much but his music will live on forever.

Bradley Gibson

I rejoice to know that he is in Heaven writing and singing much better songs than we could ever hear here on earth. And we shall see him again. Praise God!!!!

--Jackie Chapman

You saw the shooting star Friday night. Sunday night I saw a very bright rainbow on either side of the sun at dusk -- no rain.

It is no stretch of the imagination to see Rich fitting in beautifully in Our Father's house and that speaks joy to those of us who were moved by Rich's life. I pray you know God intimately shares your grief.

Gina Blanchette

Rich provoked so much personal analysis through his music.. I could listen to the words of another who had been the road and who knew that it could become... so hot inside my soul, there must be blisters on my heart. He said the walk was sometimes intense but the reward was great. He was a human example of the triumph of the daily grind. In my heart I felt a connection w/ him because he made himself vulnerable through his music. I hurt for his family and I lift them in prayer.

David Henderson

Rich Mullins was one of the first christian musicians I listened too!! He was a humble,bright,funny,great ,Godly man!! Heaven has added to it's splendor by adding Rich!! Our God is truly an AWESOME God and now your with him face to face!!

Rich was so very loved for the God we saw in him!! God bless you and take comfort in the fact that he is resting safely in his fathers arms!!!

Tyree

Rich was a good "pointer". During bouts with cancer, graduate school, the adoption process and any other spiritual low - God used his music to keep me focused on the goal. During the mountain tops of my relationship with God Rich's music pointed me to paths of higher worship. It seems that every time I listen to his music there is something new that flattens me with its simplicity and profoundness. I have not yet adopted his passion for seeing the father beyond most everything else, but I am working on it. I praise God for Rich's example of surrendering to his call to ministry - it couldn't have always been easy (what worthwhile thing is easy). His music and lyrics are counted as some of the most precious treasure that I have laid up in heaven. I will pray for his family and friends as if they were my own. I is the least that I can do.

Susann Breedlove

I am but one person in a big world, but enjoyed Rich's honesty and his ministry. If more people could be like him in their Christian walk... Thank you Rich for your inspiration and your praises. Thank you God for letting him be here with us and showing us YOU! Lois Steward

May God comfort you and may you be comforted because Rich died knowing that he'll live forever!
Jill Feldcamp

My family and I will miss you greatly Rich. Your songs helped me renew my Faith in the Lord. May God be of comfort to the family you left behind. You were a man who a lot of men wish they could be!

Although Rich will be missed greatly here on earth, can you imagine the welcome home party that they had for him. It gives me chills just thinking about it! I picture a voice calling to Rich from behind a piano and it is Keith Green wanting to have Rich jam with the heavenly band. WELCOME HOME RICH! We will meet you their someday.

-Alan Fuller

As I reflect on his music and his ministry (we saw him in concert only twice), I think of his boldness in doing Christian music his own way--the way God created and lead him to do it. He did it without glamour-- no choreography, no costume changes, no fancy bells & whistles. He appeared real and down to earth, sharing the real him--barefeet, sharing Native American culture through music and dance, the hammer dulcimer, the lyrics--half the time I didn't even understand them--not very "commercial", just from the heart, poetic...

God's has really impressed on our family this year to be willing to give up all our expectations, dreams (even the "american dream"), the life we're building for ourselves--and give it to Him and let Him take us where He can use us for His purpose. I believe Rich Mullins preached that and LIVED that. Maybe we all should honor Rich not by idealizing him, but by reflecting on his life's message and see if God is not speaking to us about our own lives.

Thank you Father for your child and servant, Rich Mullins

Shawn

I guess when you're that close to God, the only thing left to do is to meet Him Face to face. He certainly "followed Him all of his days." I can't wait to get to Heaven and hear a concert with David, Keith Green, and Rich.

David Bensenger

He touched so many lives here in central Kentucky. From former classmates at Cincinnati Bible College to staff here at Southland Christian Church as well as our Southland CIY kids, we send our sympathy. What an incredible life he led and what a legacy in music he leaves! We thank God for every remembrance of him.

Cindy Willison

Rich was an "awesome" believer believing in an "Awesome" God. And now he gets to go home to Him.

Mark Robinson

Last September, my father died. We sang "AWESOME GOD" at the service, so I guess the two of them are probably singing together now!! In the midst of pain and sadness for this world, I am so excited at the thought of the party that God is preparing for us when we get to our home! He promised to build us a mansion, now I find out he will supply it with great music, humble servants and compassion!!! May God give us the courage and compassion to help others see God's love in this world on the way to that other one.

God bless each one of you as you mourn the loss, in this life, of another one of God's servants. I can't wait to see my dad and Rich again!!!

Daniel Alsop

Rich Mullins was a man who really loved his Heavenly Father. You could tell by his lyrics and how he sounded when he sang-the love was truly there. I met him one time at Central Community Church at a Saturday night service back in 1994, even then, did I know that this was truly a remarkable man who has given his complete self to the Lord. Now he is among that great cloud of witnesses watching us in our walk with Jesus Christ! God bless Rich and his entire family and closest friends.

I was fortunate to meet Rich one day here at WHME FM in South Bend, Indiana when he was introduced to me by Jim Veldhuis. I was very impressed by him, especially by Rich's humbleness. He was like Christ, He was humble. He But we will look forward to seeing him someday soon again when Jesus returns to take us all home forever. God's blessings to his family.

Joe Brashier

Although I've enjoyed the work of many musicians, Christian and secular, few have truly touched my soul like Rich Mullins. His music touched me in what seemed like such a personal way, I was almost surprised to read all of these letters and realize how many people felt the same! Praise God. If there was ever a consistent theme in Rich

Mullins' music, it was that Heaven was his home and he looked forward to going there with great excitement. My prayers are with you.

Amy Burgess

Bittersweet is the word that always comes to mind when I think of the passing of one of God's chosen sons. The world's loss is heaven's gain. To know he is home with the Father brings joy in the midst of my sorrow. The music that the Lord gave Rich Mullins lifted me out of many a hole and constantly showed me new heights in the realm of God's love & mercy. I know I am a better person for understanding his soul's song through his music. I can't wait to meet him in heaven. Now God will forever hear the beautiful strains of the hammer dulcimer. The family of Rich Mullins is in my prayers.

Lisa Byers

Thank you Rich, for preaching the Word through your music.

Sincerely,
Rob Adelman

I became a father on June 27th and quickly found that little babies cry a lot. A whole lot. One afternoon while he was throwing a fit I put in a Rich Mullins CD and played "Screen Door on a Submarine." He immediately stopped crying and actually started smiling and laughing. Now every time he gets a little fussy all we have to do is play Rich's music and he cheers up. I thank God that he allowed Rich to minister as long as he did. His music meant so much to me and my family. I am confident Rich has heard, " Well done... "

S. Bera

what an AWESOME man he was for he knew an AWESOME GOD. I was thinking of him earlier in the month. I shall see him again in the that place as well.

bren.

His ministry has always been a great inspiration in my life. Praise God for such a wonderful life that God gave the grace to change others. Rich Mullin's music reached through many boundaries... he is receiving his eternal reward.

Barbara Wood

Rich's music touched my families life daily and will continue to touch it. I thank God for his gift of music.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dan

Rich Mullins had a way of putting into words feelings of the heart. It was the words to his songs, "Awesome God" and "Step by Step", sung over and over again at Cornerstone Festival this past summer that reached into the heart of one of my youth group kids and brought her to the Lord. While Rich's presence is now with God, his ministry will continue through the words of his songs. What a beautiful Christian witness he was and will continue to be.

Phyllis Hansen

Rich's Fort Worth concert was the only Christian concert that my

husband and I ever chose to go to. Something about Rich's music brought the us to a "greater intimacy with God". A few of his songs were so spiritually moving that they were sung in my church as praise to the Father. Rich wrote things unique, and all in order to point us to the "reckless, raging fury that is the love of God".

Kate

Rich has meant a lot to me. He was the sole reason why I started to like Christian music. Rich was a man of his word. I think he was the only Christian artist that didn't sell out. He didn't care too much about money, or fame, he just wanted to sing. Rich, I will miss you.

Alex Thomas

I was truly ministered to by your son's music. I feel that he was one of the few christian musicians we could listen to. In a field that it is so easy to compromise in, he stayed true to the end. I believe that it is a testimony of God's faithfulness.

We will be praying for his family. Stay faithful to Him who called you.

Hebrews 13:3,
David Dominick

Rich's music is the most worshipful that we had ever heard. His ministry so blessed us more times than we can count over the past few years that we have been listening to Contemporary Christian music.. Even though we all know that Rich is in Heaven with God, he will be very missed here on earth. Our God truly is an AWESOME GOD for having given Rich to us for the time he was here!

Steven & Stacy Hronec
Casselberry, Florida

May God's peace that passes all understanding be with you all. I cannot help but think that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Our prayers are with you at this time.
The Dunning Family

I first met Rich in '87 in Nashville when Reunion Records put on a "Meet Our Artists" gig at the YMCA. He was a genuine guy (who could shoot some hoops!), and I'll never forget him.

His music touched my life greatly. He inspired me to strive to be one of the "Few Good Men".

My prayers are with Neva and the rest of his family and friends.

Rocky Olive

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I am so sorry for your terrible loss. I pray that God will wrap you in His tender love and give you His "peace that passes understanding."

My 20-year-old daughter and a friend of hers have travelled many a mile to go to Rich's concerts -- we live in Berea, KY, and they travelled to Athens, GA, for one concert. Another weekend they drove to Columbus, OH, for a Friday night concert and the next day to Indianapolis for another concert that night. When he was in Kentucky, they went to every concert possible, and loved being able now and then after a concert to talk with Rich. I am really thankful for the way God, through Rich and his music, has inspired

my daughter and strengthened her spiritually. She is sponsoring a child through Compassion; and as an elementary education major in college is considering the possibility of teaching on an Indian Reservation.

I thank God for your sweet, sensitive son who has been such a great role model for my daughter and innumerable others by his selflessness, compassion and love for God.

Our prayers are with you.

In Christ,

Jackie Thorne

One thing I will remember Rich doing was that he said, "I want to share with you a profound Biblical truth!" He then proceeded to play "Jesus Loves Me" on the hammer dulcimer, surprising and reaching everyone in the theater with this simple truth of God, reminding us of Christ's love and forgiveness, which was always the meat of Rich's message. Thank you, Rich!

Robert & Linda Harris

What a guy! Rich seemed to know where we were in our walk with God and he expressed it so clearly. Rich's music touched all of us, because he was so honest and transparent with the tough and the beautiful parts of life, and finding God's grace in all of it. Maybe he'll write us a homecoming song that we can all sing when Jesus brings us Home.

Thank you, Mrs. Mullins, for raising such a godly young man.

Robin Hackney

I'm an on-air guy at Christian talk KKLA in Los Angeles. I tell you this because I was in contact with Rich's music and his ministry very closely for some 5 years. He blessed me more than words can ever express. Please know that I will keep Rich's family and friends in my prayers. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Rich Mullins. His life affected so, so many souls.

Jim Governale
KKLA
Los Angeles, CA

"Rich"
(inspired by "Elijah")

the Jordan is no longer waiting for him to cross thru
his heart isn't aging no more
so Lord, we're rejoicing
for one last favor from You
now here's our hearts
take them where you will

this life sure showed him how we're mended
and how we're torn
how it was OK to be lonely
'cuz it was the only way he was free
sometimes his ground was stony
and sometimes covered with thorns
but only You could make it what it had to be
and now that it's done
we can dress him like a pauper
or we can dine him like a prince
we may lay him with his fathers
or scatter his ashes on the wind
he don't care

well, he left and
he went out like Elijah
the whirlwind fueling his chariot of fire

now he's looking back on the stars
thinking it was like a candlelight in Central Park
and it sure didn't break his heart to say good-bye

there's been people friendly
but he only had a few friends
sometimes this bent him to the ground
but now this has all ended
and we want to hear some of his music again

'cuz it's the finest thing
that we have ever found
the Jordan is no longer waiting
and now he can see the other side
he didn't take anything he had here
and on the road of his salvation
he stuck out his thumb and got a ride
from the One whose music filled his ears

there's been people talking
worried about his soul
we know he's still rocking
even though it's his time to roll
and when he died
he went out like Elijah

Jeremiah Smith

We are members of Iglesia Bautista Hispana Unida who attended Congreso '96 in Lubbock, Texas, where Rich gave a concert on Friday night. My youth group and I were greatly blessed by his music, God used him in a special way! Now he's gone home to the Father. We will pray for his family, that God will comfort them and give them peace.

Amelia Rodriguez,
youth counselor & youth group

His will finally be able to praise God face to face after leading us in praise for so long. Soon we will all be praising the Father together in heaven and Rich will be there leading us with new songs.

Leticia

When I heard the news, I went back to my dorm room and listened to Rich's "Songs" CD. Emotions flooded me when "Elijah" began to play. I am sure that Heaven is rejoicing to have such an awesome person in their midst.

Michael Johnson

I am so thankful for the time we had Rich Mullins. His music has touched my life tremendously. Yet knowing where he is. I smile... Thank You Lord for letting us have him for awhile.....

Mark McDonald

Rich was one of my favorites, both as song-writer & musician. I am planning to do a medley of Rich's songs next Sunday as my own memorial to Rich. I know many others were as profoundly affected by Rich's music as I have been.

My heart goes out to Rich's family in deepest sympathy. Rich will be missed.

See ya in Heaven Rich....

LeAnne

He was a friend of a friend. Wichita is my home town, and I knew of Rich as a person and met him a few times. His songs ministered to me, comforted me, challenged me to love God.

Terri J. Welch

"That love is all there is, is all we know of love."
Emily Dickinson

His music has always held a very deep place in my heart. His songs were prophetic like and I could easily come in God's presence as I listened and sung along with him. I will never forget after a long backslide and the grace of God leading me back, the song "home" would make me cry for several years. And on the slopes of the Colorado mountains with my head phones on listening to "with the wonder". Rich's ministry has effected me in a powerful way, I am sure that he will continue to do so. My deepest consonances to his Mother and Family. You have my thoughts, my prayers and my admiration for raising such a powerful man of God.

Chris Sheafer

three concerts... three life changes. from the first song of his that i had heard- growing young, through all of his other works, as an instrument of the Lord, rich impacted my life like few others have or ever will. i didn't know then those times that i waited with family members to get the autographs or shake his hand how much he meant to others because of what he meant to me. with each signing on a shirt, disc, or booklet, he would smile and say hello, and then write to each of us "..... Be God's". rich was then, had been since, and now truly is "God's." prayers and sorrow, and joy and celebration to all of rich's family, friends,

and fans.

David Bindel

Our family will continue to pray for the family of Rich Mullins. We are thankful that Rich allowed God to work in his life in such a mighty way. His ministry will continue through his music and we will rejoice, knowing that Rich now is in heaven with an awesome, faithful God.

The Hall Family

As someone who has worked in Christian radio for years, I know the impact that Rich's music had on people. There are too many Christian artist who's music is profit driven, but Rich was different. I remember receiving a letter from Reunion records back in 1986. It was a letter Rich had written to the owners of the company. In the letter Rich shared how he wanted to step back from the spotlight and focus on ministry to churches and smaller venues. That letter made me an instant fan. Our church brought Rich in August of this year. During the concert he said something that really stuck with me. "This is not a Christian nation! A Christian nation would not murder it's children!" He was truly a original, one-of-a-kind gift from God! Pray for his family, band, and the wonderful people who worked in his ministry! The boy born in Indiana has gone home to his eternal home..... heaven!

Al

WJBD Radio

I was driving home from doing laundry Saturday night and had just finished listening to one of Rich's songs when I heard. I was incredulous; it felt like a dream. I found myself pulling over to the side of the road and simply weeping. Like so many of those who have recorded their thoughts here, I cannot remember ever

weeping at the death of someone I did not know personally. And yet I feel as though I did know Rich personally. There have been times in my life when his music was one of the only threads I hung on to. My freshman year of college I was almost suicidal and there were nights when I would walk to the fountain at school and lay down with my feet in the water and cry in despair. During that time Rich's music was one of the things that got me through. I first came to appreciate Rich's music for his honesty and integrity of emotional expression, and he is one of the few artists I have carried with me as I have grown up. Now I also love his music for its profound resonance with life's hard realities, with sound Christian theology, for his skill as a musician. Rich was one of those rare individuals who both understand the harshness of our lives here and yet see the surpassing beauty and joy around us. He had no illusions about this life, but he loved and lived vibrantly. He knew the blessings that God showers on us in kindness. I couldn't stop replaying the lyrics in my mind, "Nobody tells you when you get born here how much you'll come to love it and how you'll never belong here, so I'll call you my country, and I'll be lonely for my home, and I wish that I could take you there with me." Praise God that Rich is no longer lonely for his home.

Blessings to the Mullins family. You are in my prayers.

With much love and sadness,
Jeff Johnson
Waco, TX

Unfortunately, I was only able to see Rich once at Cornerstone. Seeing him live was what made me the fan that I am. I will truly miss him.

May the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. May Jesus hold the

family and friends of Rich Mullins closely at this time. His humility and tenacious love for God was evident in his life and will be sorely missed.

Dear Rich; You were my favorite singer in the whole world. This morning when I found out you had been killed in a car accident I cried and cried, my mom told me don,t cry you'll see him in heaven someday. I hope you are having a good time in heaven right now! love your number one fan,
Alyson Klees

Dear Mullins family,

I am so, very sorry for your loss. Rich's music helped me out of a dark time in my life and I've loved him ever since. I stood in stunned silence upon learning of the accident (especially since it happened so close to my home) but realized that God makes no mistakes. And even though I wrestled with God and argued that "Rich's work is not done!!", God obviously thought differently.

Please know that you are surrounded with prayer during this difficult time. Personally, I can't wait to sing "Awesome God" one day with all the saints of the ages and have Rich conduct the music! What a day that will be!

In Christian love,
Paul

The computer class at Vennard College in University Park, Iowa wishes to send our heartfelt condolences to you and your family at the loss of Rich. Our prayers will continue on your behalf. May God comfort and keep you in the coming days!

Your friends,

Vennard College

The first time I saw Rich in concert was at a high school auditorium where I worked. I couldn't understand why he wasn't in a big concert hall with thousands of people. He showed me that night through his enthusiasm and love for those kids, that it doesn't matter where you are when you spread the good news or to how many, just as long as your heart is right and with God. I had the pleasure of meeting this fine young man and I know he was a man after God's own heart. He will be remembered through his songs and his ministries. WE WILL MISS HIM GREATLY!!!

In Christ
Brenda Zabriskie
Emporia, Kansas

My wife and I have listened to Rich's poetry for years, and now face a large void, where Rich's music enhanced our faith. I heard Billy Crockett say on KLTU (Dallas) this morning that Rich was "clueless and profound". He had no earthly idea what the latest fad or trend was, because that did not populate his mind. At the same time, he could speak some of the most profound theological ideas, or use simple, clear language to express a complex faith. I will miss Rich, and his honesty. He was just so darned honest! As always, I am sad for selfish reasons, knowing he is truly in Jesus' arms. We are the ones who are richer for knowing him, and sad because we are left behind. Prayers for Mitch, and their families. We love ya Rich - thanks for the heart and soul of your music.

In His Love,
Max

Rich has been my favorite musician, singer, and poet for many years now. His music has been a blessing time and time again. I don't know how many times I have sung "Hold Me Jesus" unto the Lord. I can't believe he's gone. And although I am sorrowful and pray for his family and friends, I do not grieve for Rich, for it is clear that he is with our Lord. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Rich or even the opportunity of seeing him in concert, I feel that I knew him. His love for God was crystal clear in the lyrics of his songs. I only look forward to the day when I can stand with Rich and sing "Awesome God" unto the Lord. Thank you Lord for the brief moment that you allowed Rich to minister to us.

We'll miss you Rich. But God wanted you home. See you soon brother.

Greg Couch

As I write this I am listening to our local Christian radio station, KLTY -- Dallas/Fort Worth. They are playing a medley of Rich's songs. I can't stop crying thinking about what a loss Rich's death is to the Christian community and to the lost world. He was an incredible minister through his person and his music. The message of Christ couldn't be any clearer than when Rich sang it through his music. I had the privilege of seeing Rich in concert while he was in Dallas a few years ago. What a ministry this man had! I also really appreciated all the ministry work he did in New Mexico. I grew up in Angel Fire, New Mexico. Knowing the culture of New Mexico and the way that Rich spreads the message of Christ, I know that God really used him there.

At the same time I mourn Rich's loss, I also can't help but feel joy that he is with Our Lord right now. What an addition to the choir of Angels in Heaven that are singing and praising God for all eternity!! As I think about the difference that Rich's life made here on earth, I can't help but think of what it is that God wants me to do to make a difference. After all, when God called Rich to spread His word to the world, he also gave us Christians a great example to follow -- an unthreatening, genuine, very real

and
uncompromised message of the Gospel of Christ!

My husband and I were in the Chicagoland area visiting with family over Labor Day weekend. One night we went out with some old friends to a movie. As my husband and I were walking toward the theatre to buy tickets, two men were walking toward us out of the theatre -- one had shoulder length brown hair, the other blond. As they got closer I began to squeeze my husband's hand so hard that I almost cut off his circulation. I must have made just a small scene when they passed, because they both looked back at my husband and I, then kept talking and walking their way. My husband asked, "What is it?" and I said, "That was Rich Mullins that we just passed -- at least I think it was." By the time I was convinced and knew it was really him, Rich and Mitch had passed us by and walked into the dark starry night. I had missed my opportunity to stop him and tell him personally how much I appreciated his music and the work he had done to further Christ's kingdom. Upon hearing about Rich's death, that missed opportunity at the theatre in Wheaton, Illinois, just a few weeks ago really struck me with conviction. How many times have people passed me by and have walked off into the dark and I haven't risked a moment of time or risked the fear of rejection to tell them how much God loves them and share with them the good news of Christ?

Thank you, Rich and Mitch, for really causing me to step back and see what is really, truly important.

Amie Adelman

My wife and I send our sympathy to the family of Rich Mullins and our prayers are with Mitch McVicker. We praise God for the life Rich lived, and know that the candle he left will continue to light the world for Jesus.

-David and Michele Boyer,
Indianapolis, IN

About two and a half weeks ago, a friend and I were talking about the death of Princess Diana. I was marveling at the effect her death had on so many people. As I am a cynic of Generation X I told her that I did not think that there was a famous person alive whose death could touch me in that way. Saturday evening as I heard the reports of Rich Mullins death I found out that I was very wrong. Rich's music has been with me for the four years that I have been a Christian. It has helped me anchor firmly to Christ and grow deep in the Spirit. Rich was not a mere singer. He was a bard. His songs expressed the Gospel of Christ in a way that most singers can only dream of. His songs comforted and convicted at the same time. I will be forever grateful that I twice had the opportunity to see Rich in concert. In my opinion he did not perform, he lead worship. I and all those present felt the Spirit of the Lord. I pray for his family and friends. I know that he is in a place that we all long to be. May Christ continue to be found in the legacy that Rich has left behind.

James Jones

I would just like to say that Rich's passing is a tragic loss for the world. I only managed to see him once in concert but was immensely awe inspired by his performance and his dedication to his faith. His concert was not so much a performance as it was a worship service where he managed to draw the attention away from him. He wasn't the worship leader as much as he was merely part of the congregation lifting praises to the King. His songs were an inspiration, never coming across as contrived as many other CCM artists, but he seemed genuinely humbled by the grace and glory of our creator. I will miss him and his music, but I am happy to know that he is in the presence of our Awesome God.

Sincerely,
rodney boerm,
San Angelo, Texas

I feel a much greater sense of personal loss over his death than I could ever feel about Diana's or even Mother Theresa's. These famous women touched many lives, but this simple man of faith touched MY life on more than one occasion. There are many of you who can relate to what I am saying. I thank God for the ministry and the message in his music which is giving me HOPE TO CARRY ON. "I'll pray for you always and I promise you this, I'll carry on, I'll carry on." May we all carry on his Legacy.

Rich's was an honest voice of compassion which reached into my heart, bringing words to the cries of my soul. He could express with beauty and joy feelings we all share and lead us from our places of longing into gratefully effervescent thanksgiving. Through the gift of his music that voice will always resonate on earth and in heaven.

Well done good and faithful servant!

Ronald Cox

A profound man who was a life-changing influence in my life. His songs will always be playing in my heart.

Michael

Rich was one of my favorites singers/composers. I saw him several years ago in concert--barefoot, dressed in jeans and a T-shirt. He looked to me like just any ordinary boy from Indiana, but the music that came out of him was extraordinary. "Awesome God" still brings tears to my eyes every time I hear it or sing it in church. I often find myself humming "Step by Step" when I'm at work or

doing my household chores. Rich was a truly talented person and we are lucky that God gave him to us for 41 short years, but his music will live on in our hearts always.

Tamara Chapman

The Church has lost a prophet. We have lost a great encourager in the Faith. Because Rich lived humbly in obedience to God, he encouraged me to do the same. I believe the world is a more desolate place with Rich Mullins gone, and I long even more as he did for his home.

L. Argent

My heart is breaking, although I have not yet had a chance to cry. I have recently become close friends with Mark Robertson, Jordan Richter, and Cobra Joe (This Train), at whose studio Rich was recording with Mitch McVicker. I had the God gifted pleasure of actually meeting and briefly talking to Rich about 3 weeks ago. He was such a vibrant and active man. It is hard to understand that he is gone. The Newman Group Bible Study for young professionals and graduate students, here in Madison, WI is praying for Rich, Mitch, and all whose lives were touched by Rich. I have also been asking people to remember all the Ragamuffins in their prayers.

While I don't understand it all, I keep relying on Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, never rely on what you think you know."

Always your sister in Christ,
Genevieve Gorman
Madison, Wisconsin

I am so thankful that our Lord blessed this earth with Rich Mullins for the short time He did. Rich's songs ministered to me in so many ways. When I was going through the very fires of tribulation and I felt so deserted I would sing "Hold Me Jesus" and knew our loving Savior was there and taking care of me. When I was at a Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Kansas City, the Lord had blessed me with such a mountaintop experience and I couldn't stop singing "Step by Step", it just overflowed from my spirit. I feel such a loss for this brother I never met personally. I am praying for his family. Now that Rich is in the arm of Jesus we can sing "Hold Me Jesus" and grasp the Hope that one day we will be with Rich and never have to part.

With great sorrow,
Leesa Well,
Pasadena, Texas

Rich Mullins was indeed a very humble man whose songs inspired many and drew many to a personal relationship with Jesus. The fact that he would come on stage barefoot, allow children to come on stage with him, and would exit the stage after a concert while people continued to sing so that God received the glory, shows that he was not in the ministry for a position or a status. He was a regular man who was just following God's will. I am praying for the family and all those who are deeply saddened by this servant's passing. Let us follow in Jesus' footsteps, as Rich had done, and do just as Christ has called us to do. I do not think that Rich would want us to mourn his passing but rather to rejoice in his home coming. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort to all those who mourn.

Jennifer Zwick

... the world is less Rich and Heaven is Rich-er. I appreciate the opportunity to express our thanksgivings and share our grief.

It is so comforting to know that I am one among many who were deeply and profoundly reached by God through the talents He gave to Rich Mullins. The impact his music has had on my life is enormous but obviously not unique. The desire to know the mere mortal behind the words seems nearly universal to those of us who listened. Who was this man who could so vividly articulate our earthly struggles for Heavenly understanding? We wanted him as a friend because we sensed that he would find us acceptable - in spite of our flaws and stumblings - as a kindred spirit. He created a bridge for me to Christ through his music. Coming out of a life that focused on and revolved around secular music and into the new world of Christianity, he was my first and best "friend" after I became a believer. His gift of word and song has been a part of my life's most important moments. I have been affected by it like no other. It breaks my heart to know he's said goodbye and I'm sure that one day these tears will eventually turn to tears of joy... I am sorely missing his "companionship" for the rest of my life's journey but I sense a comfort in knowing that so many of us are Rich-ly united. My prayers go out for Mitch's recovery, the families, Beaker and all the friends and kindred spirits out there.

"His loved ones are very precious to Him and He does not lightly let them die." Psalm 116:15 TLB

Joe

I am deeply, deeply touched by the passing of Rich. Although I never met him, never went to one of his concerts, and only own one of his Cd's, I feel I have lost a very close friend. I am crying right now as I write this letter and I will probably be bummed for quite a while. The only Cd I own of his is "Songs" but I am truly one of his biggest fans. I got this Cd a year ago for christmas and since that time I have grown to love his music. According to the May/June 1995 Release magazine Rich was the most underrated Christian singer, he was not however underrated in my eyes and in the eyes of many others. And in our loss three days ago we must remember that heaven has gained a new singer and Rich is in

paradise with Christ right now. And although many of us never met Rich, if we have Christ as our personal savior, we will meet him one day on the other side of the Jordan.

Rich truly was an inspiration to us all and he surely did "rock till it was his time to roll" and I would like to close with a quote from Reed Arvin from the Sept/Oct 1996 Release magazine, "If Rich Mullins were better adjusted and better behaved, a lot of art would not exist in this world, and a lot of truth would still be unspoken."

Rich we love you have a great time in heaven.

William M. Nettekoven

I am stunned and saddened at the loss of such a talented, trail-blazing artist. Rich could say things like no one else... He spoke and sang with such courageous honesty, but it was always tempered by a deep love and Christ-like compassion. I thank God for Rich's life and work. Our human lives are so inexplicable, fragile, unpredictable... Thank God there is another life, one that we can't even imagine. Rich is walking streets of gold, and I'd bet money that he and Mark Heard are working on a batch of new songs. Can't wait to hear them!

Matt Nightingale
Winona Lake, IN

Yes, the world is a much sadder place today but as bad as I feel for myself and the loss of a friend and incredibly great person, I can't help but feel happy for him and where he is right now. My youth minister, another good friend of Rich's passed away in November. They would always have such fun together. I'm happy to know that he now has Rich's company.

Terry

Rich's song "Here in America" welcomed me to America in 1993, and made me know I was in the right place, even though my family was so far away. He's far from his family now, but I know that however much they miss him, they'll know he's in the best place of all. I thank God he left us so much of himself in his deeply revealing music, and spoke so well for those of us who were less eloquent.

Dyan Munro

I had seen Rich back in 93 for the first time, and had the wonderful opportunity to interview him. I have been listening to his music since his first album. He somehow knew how to write songs that cut into my heart in an attempt to reshape it according to God's will. I have sung, and will continue to sing, many of Rich's songs at church. His music and ministry will continue. Yes, he is in a MUCH better place, and I'm sure he couldn't be happier, but this is an unfathomable loss for the church. Sincere condolences to Rich's family and close friends. My prayers are with Mitch, that God will see fit to let him carry on Rich's legacy.

Patrick Thompson

"And I believe what I believe is what makes me what I am I did not make it, no it is making me It is the very truth of God and not the invention of any man" -RM

The truth of God has allowed Rich be made a saint.

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" -Jn 8:32

R. Scott Harris

I can just see Rich now in Heaven - teaching the angel band a thing or two! Maybe God needed him to help prepare for the glorious music that will play on the day Jesus takes us all home together and every day thereafter! May that day come soon! I know that - after Jesus - Rich Mullins will be one of the first people I look for when I get there!

Hang in there. It may feel like Friday - but Sunday's coming!

Love from your friend in Tennessee,
Jeannie Goins

My wife and I met Rich and band in Gainesville, Florida. We had already fallen in love with him through his music, and much more so through the privilege of having attended one of his shows. We got to speak briefly with him afterward and he spoke of his love for the richness of the Catholic church, but he expressed a wish that we didn't have to label and segregate our Christianity.

Rich, we want to thank you for your devotion to Christ's love. You have been more than an inspiration, and have left a rich "liturgy and a legacy" in your music - which will continue to lead people to the Savior. Be seeing you, Rich.

Love,
Mike & Laurie Cousins

I am so sorry. I only knew Rich as an acquaintance. I didn't have the opportunity to really get to know him. I so wish I had. His life touched me so. I fell in love with him the first time I

saw him on stage. I fell in love with his overwhelming love for Jesus. I'll remember his smile always - he had a smile that radiated his soul. Though I know he is where he has always longed to be - close to God - my heart and thoughts and prayers go out to you all. He will be missed. He was dearly loved. He touched the world for the Kingdom of God. May God now touch all of you with His healing balm of Peace that passes understanding.

Peace of Christ,
Pam T.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to your family in your moment of grief! but I also would like to rejoice with you in the great peace that he is in a wonderful place with his best friend the one he lived his life solely for! I was blessed to meet Rich in '94 at a singles 4th of July picnic at Gordon College in Wenham Ma, He sang Awesome God with us walking down to the beach. And was so much of presence to us all. His concert was so personal and he was so interactive with us. I have yet to meet anyone whose music has touched my spirit such as Rich mullins did.

He will be deeply missed on this earth , but wasn't God wonderful to have blessed us with Rich for 41 years! It was his time to go home, and the angels are rejoicing and Rich is singing right along with them! Bless you all for bringing up a man who lived with the fear and admonition of our Lord. May his spirit rest in eternal peace. You will be in my prayers!

... In His Amazing Love and Mercy!
Tara Fitzpatrick

Hello,

I just wanted to send a piece of my heart out to those in mourning concerning the passing away of Rich Mullins. I am a worship leader for a church in Michigan, and we sing several of Rich's

famous songs. I never met him, but I've played his songs for years and always enjoyed the simplicity and innocent purity of the music God inspired him to make.

Sincerely,
--Pete Craig

We lost a man that was obedient and faithful to His father. We are saddened because we will no longer be able to worship our God with Rich in concert. But I thank God for having been so kind to have shared Rich with us. Thank you Rich for writing the words to the feelings I have inside! Thank you Rich for helping me to worship our AWESOME God!

My thoughts and prayers are with the family's of Rich Mullins and Mitch McVicker.

David Rodecap

I was saddened to hear that Rich had been taken from us in such a tragic manner. I only saw him once in concert, but his music has blessed me greatly, and continues to do so.

His heart and gift for worship was incredible. Though his music I could see how the Lord was visible to him in the beauty of His creation, the moving of the wind, the love of a child...

Rom. 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities --his eternal power and divine nature --have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

I pray that God will bring all of us comfort in this loss. I know that Rich is praising God with all his heart at His throne this very day!

Sincerely,
Glenn Frank

Rich was a gift to all and I pray for his family and friends now. He will be missed here. Thank-you Lord for this servant of God. We will sing together again in Heaven.

Tell nonbelievers about his death, Share the promise that Rich has received in Heaven.

Our human emotions are raw with the news of Rich. My wife and I first saw him at the last "Farewell" concert he gave (near Dayton, OH). While there were many memorable moments during his concert (including Rich customarily barefoot), his few words have stayed with me through all the trials and low points in my life- especially those times when I KNOW I have disappointed God. Rich said "it doesn't matter that you stopped reading your Bible, because if you have, JUST PICK IT UP and start again-your Father will be there". He loves us so much, that when we stumble, He is steady. And now we are sad but Rich IS being held by Jesus.

TW Braddock

We want to express our sorrow over Rich's death. I have enjoyed his music for a long time, but our 9 yr. old son has just recently become a big fan. After hearing the news, we both cried. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and Mitch and his family.

Gerald, Selena & Caleb Douglass

I know that as Paul wrote, for Christians there's the comfort that a loved one is with the Lord. I also know that often this does nothing to ease the pain of losing them. It sounds awful in a way, but my main feeling is one of envy, as I nearly lost my life in April, but didn't quite make it; but having also been in your place, I also feel deep sorrow for all those left behind, and my prayers are with them and with Mitch's family and friends... May the Lord Jesus bless and keep you all, and provide His comfort and healing. We'll soon be done.

With much love in Christ
Donna Gondwe, London

For years one of my dreams was to see Rich in concert, but he never came to town. Last April he did, but I left town on business that very same day. I thought, "Maybe I'll catch him another time." I guess that dream will remain unfulfilled. He was an awesome song writer. He was my favorite and still is. I'm truly, truly bummed.

I wrote this. It's a tribute to his music

As Best as I'll Remember Him

And now the man who told us to sing to our awesome God is with Him. He is now in such a thing as glory
And he knows the morning can't compare.
And the man who told us that sometime the night is beautiful
Will experience the night no more.
For he is where the winds of Heavens blow.

No more will he write of the wonder of this world
And hear the prairies call out God's name
Or hear the rumble of the buffalo hooves.
No longer will he be a lonely sailor

Ready for the storm.
Or shake like a leaf, cause Jesus is holding him now.
He will no longer meet the Lord in the furnace
For He has met Him in the sky.
And everywhere he goes he will see Him.

For he now lives in the promise that made him stand
And we are left to weep
While he is no longer, longing for his home.
We are left in a place where we are not as strong as we think we
are
While he is with his One Thing
In a place where everything is alrightokuhhuhamen!

The Jordan is no longer waiting
And I will sing his songs In the land of my sojourn.

Pasquale R, Mingarelli 9/21/97
derived from the "Songs" of Rich Mullins

this morning (monday) i'm sitting listening to rich sing "the
color green"... the weekend was a blur, still thankful the Lord
held me up as i gave the message to my congregation yesterday...
"he lifts up his arms in a blessing for being born again"... rich
blessed us greatly... can't find the words, but the tears are
still coming easily... i pray we will all find rich's passion for
Jesus and that His light (rich was the best reflector of God's
light that i know in christian music)will shine more brightly
because of hearing rich... i pray for heaven's comfort for rich's
family and for heaven's healing for mitch. "to live is Christ, to
die is gain"... we'll see you later rich, we love you!!!!

Johnny Searcy

I wanted to send along condolences from my wife and I to Rich's
family and really to all of us who knew him through his music or

otherwise. Praise God that Rich is now singing the song that he always tried to sing for us here.

Rich is now firmly in His loving care...

-daniel and laurie goscha

I am deeply saddened upon finding out the news of Rich's departure from this world- A world he impacted profoundly with his faith, his works and of course his gift of composing angelic music. An artist who illuminated Jesus through song. Thank You Jesus, for giving us Rich for 42 years. I know you welcomed home a great friend Friday night- Yours and mine. He will be missed and remembered. Till we meet in heaven- Good Bye :(

Richard Harper

As a writer of a column on Christian Music, I had several occasions to meet Rich. I was always amazed at his down-home attitude and because I grew up on a farm in the midwest, felt a kinship as he talked about Indiana and Kansas. A barefoot, holes-in-jeans kind of guy, Rich never put on airs -- what you saw was what you got! It often got him in trouble with the industry because he was true and sincere. He had to be Rich and that is an attribute I also admired. He and his songs have touched my life deeply and I am saddened by his passing, but rejoice that he is now singing for the one who gave him his tremendous talent. My heart and prayers go out to Beaker, Marshall, Rich's mother and brothers and sisters.

In Christ.

Al Dostal

Where do I begin? I feel such a deep sense of loss for this man I consider my friend though we never personally met. I laughed,

cried and grew as a Christian through Rich's ministry. He was real. He was the Love of Jesus puttin' on flesh and bone. As my wife and I weep over his loss... It would be selfish of us to wish him back from where he is now. We were talking last night after we heard the news and I just had this vision of him in his chariot of fire looking back and laughing that laugh that only Rich had. I can only imagine his thrill and excitement in the fact that he is experiencing first hand the things that he has always sung about. My wife said she could see Jesus and Rich sitting on the banks of the Crystal Sea and scratching their feet on the rocks and laughing together... ohh how I miss him... He demonstrated to me the way we were meant to live the Gospel. If only all Christians could live as he lived.

Other thoughts that I have had include:

He lived like he would die tomorrow, and died knowing he would live forever. Rich no longer has to weep as a man who is longing for his home.

He told us it wouldn't break his heart to say good-bye.

I am almost positive that God granted his request to go to Heaven in a chariot of fire.

Jesus is now holding him... no longer will he have to shake like a leaf... he is in the presence of the Prince of Peace.

He is no longer lonely... and he is more free than he ever was here on earth.

I know that He will raise him up on the last day.

He is with the Father of hearts, the Maker of Noses, and the Giver of dreams.

He will be made anew out of the stuff that lasts... stuff that is purer than gold is and clearer than glass could ever be.

He has been gathered to his home.

He encouraged us that we should reach out to Jesus and hold on tight... when we experience trouble in our lives.

He is experiencing the reckless, raging fury, they call the love of God.

...somewhere... (Never Picture Perfect)... has been a strong encouragement to me since I heard the news.

All of his questions about Jesus have been answered... (Did He ever wrestle with a dog and lick his nose?)

Rich knows now for sure... this makes me smile.

Again I will miss him...but I can't wish him back... it just wouldn't be fair... and though I don't understand God's timing... I know that I have been made better for the all too brief time that God allowed me to have been ministered to by my friend Rich.

To Rich's family... we are praying for your comfort in this time of sorrow... your son and brother changed lives for Christ... he can leave no greater legacy. We know there is no past tense in God's kingdom... Rich is more alive now than he ever was on earth. "And all the way my Savior leads me oh the fullness of His love, perfect rest in me is promised in my father's house above. When my spirit clothed immortal wings it's flight to realms of day this my song through endless ages... Jesus led me all the way." Amen... so be it. Rich sing with all your might until Jesus leads us to where you are..... we will join you in the chorus... someday.... I don't know when.

---Michael Peterman

I know you have heard many times by now how Rich touched lives all over this country, indeed all over the world, with his music his walk with God and his work with Compassion USA.

My wife and I are no exception. Your sons' music , specifically his song 'Awesome God' will continue to have great meaning to us and our family. It really touched our hearts and drew us closer to God. His music had that effect on many people. I am certain that his music and work will continue to touch people in a profound way, even in his absence.

My wife and I were both saddened very deeply by the news that Rich was gone. It was too soon by our way of measuring. God, however, has a different way of measuring time. We are consoled in the knowledge that Rich is home with the Lord now.

Please accept our condolences and our prayers.

Sincerely,
Christopher and Shea Pratt

We send our heartfelt condolences on the death of your son Rich, whose ministry impacted the lives of so many.

He will be missed. Thank you for raising him to be a light in the darkness. We considered it a privilege to meet him. He has always been a favorite with our listeners and his humility to be a musician who characterized his ministry as being a "Clown" in Christ's Kingdom. We look forward to the day when we shall renew a relationship with him at the foot of Heaven's throne. We mourn the loss of your son with you.

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not, be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen you, yea, I will help you, yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness."

The staff of the Dick Staub Show on the Salem Radio Network --
Dick Staub
Lori Solyom
Dan Brokaw

My husband and I met Rich a couple of years ago after a concert in Erie, PA. He graciously agreed to give us his autograph. He signed simply, "Be God's." I guess summarizes the point of all the lyrics God had ever placed on his heart. That is the bottom line. What a precious gift God gave us in Rich. What a precious gift God gave Rich on Friday... the beginning of his eternal reward. If each of us can touch even one heart the way Rich touched millions, we will have lived a full life! Looking forward to meeting you again someday, Rich.

Jane Stiller

Dear Neva and Brothers and Sisters, (I wish I knew all your names, I would call you all by name...)

To each of you, a great big hug, some tears as I write this, and a heaviness of heart that make all of this seem unreal. I lost 3 family members this last year, 1 of them tragically, so I can identify with the pain and sorrow you are feeling.

This tragedy rings a familiar tone in me for another person who died tragically 15 years ago, Mr. Keith Green, along with 2 of his children in a plane crash. I was a part of last Days Ministries that He had founded, I was in Lindale, TX where it all happened.

I wish I had a formula for you that would ease the pain, but I can only offer my compassion, the fact that I identify so much with this painful sense of loss, and offer my time to talk if any of you should ever choose to do so. Each minute, every hour and day can only be lived and dealt with as it comes, and trust me on this, You will see Grace upon Grace from the Father touch each of those moments, and you will see how Lovingly and closely He is walking with you.

I believe that the Father shares your grief, and his heart is broken at this tragic moment for you, but at the same time, He is joyful that Rich is now Home, safe and embraced closely in the Father's presence.

Finally, I just wanted to say to you, Neva, That you brought an incredible blessing into the world through your son, Rich, who reached out and touched me, and millions of others in a humble, direct, and honestly loving way.

Thank you for being the fountain of blessing that brought forth this wellspring of talent, Christ-like servanthood, and a true example to follow in how to be a true Christian in every sense of the Word. The fruit of your labors were not wasted, his legacy will continue for many years to come. He can never be replaced, but I hope his spirit of service, compassion, dedication and

integrity will be multiplied a million-fold. That would be the greatest tribute to his life, and a worthy honor to our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the arms of Father God surround you all, embracing each of you in His tenderness, that He may minister to your every need in this challenging time.

With Great Love and Respect,
Michael David S. Severson

Around 1988 a friend gave our family a homemade copy of "Awesome God," from that point on his music became a part of our spiritual lives. Yesterday at church the same friend who introduced us to Rich Mullin's relayed the sad news. I was touched as I shared it with my 16 year old daughter; she reminded me that as a 8-10 year old, she would sing "Awesome God" or listen to one of his tapes when she had a bad dream or trouble going to sleep. As our church entered into worship I was filled with thankfulness for the all that God had enabled RM to give to the body of Christ, for the exaltation and wonder that filled his heart toward God. Who among us could sing yesterday without picturing Mullins enjoined in the praises to God? Thanks to the Father for all the unique aspects of this servant's life and music. Rich Mullins' passionate, winsome, and honest effort to reveal the marvelous mystery of God's love and grace brought a taste of the eternal to a groaning creation. He drew us nearer to the Supper Table and his music will surely continue as a sweet aroma of the glorious Feast to come.

Our loss from a human standpoint is understandably selfish. I wanted to have years of being ministered through Rich's music, to allow his words and rhymes soothe my soul, to share with others the incredible music but closure came too soon. May God continue to use this wonderful talent, may we be open to growth through tragedy, may we continue to reach out. Thanks, Rich

K Haight

Whenever I think of Rich Mullins, I will always remember the sight of his footprint on a church wall. Let me tell you the story...

My wife and I convinced my parents to take us to one of Rich's concerts in Minnesota. We arrived early because we didn't have tickets yet. We hoped that our vigilance would not be in vain, that there would still be tickets available.

About an hour before the concert, Rich walked out and looked at the crowd gathered in the lobby. He walked away, but returned shortly with Mitch McVicker and their guitars. He said that they would play some songs for us while we waited.

We sat and listened to them sing and play; what a special treasure! While they were performing, Rich leaned against the wall behind him. And, in order to hold his guitar up, he placed his foot against the wall, leaving a very distinct footprint.

I have often thought about that footprint. Most people would be appalled: "That is no way to show respect in the house of God." "Didn't he ever learn how to behave in a church?" "Can't he show some common decency?"

I don't know if Rich ever learned the proper etiquette for performing/praising in a church lobby. But I've listened to his music; I've read his lyrics; I've watched his videos; I know his Jesus. And I do know that Rich knows about the Love of God; he knows the Grace of the Father; he knows how to live victoriously in Christ.

Rich may not have known that putting his foot on the wall was "wrong," but I thank God for sharing Rich with us. I'm glad he was there to put that mark on the wall and to put a footprint on my heart that I will never forget. It will take me a long time to mourn this loss.

Karl Lehrke

I am deeply saddened by the news of Rich's death... the loss is a very personal one to us, as his music was so powerful and influential in our growing closer to the Lord. We listen to a lot of Christian music, but none has touched us as much as Rich Mullin's music has... we have a 4 year old son who adores his music, has memorized much of it, and sings them almost constantly wherever he goes. I would say Rich's music has caused my son's love for God to grow stronger and has given it an outlet, and for that I will be forever grateful. I am conscious that Rich is rejoicing in the presence of the Savior, and that provides much comfort, but I can hardly think of the depth of loss, we, and so many other fans whose lives he has touched, will feel each time we remember him. Our prayers, sympathy, and love go out to his family and friends.

With love in Christ,
Michelle Wuesthoff

Though I only met him once backstage at a concert, Rich was like a best friend to me. His music has a way of reaching into your heart and becoming a part of you, like a best friend. My wife and I and our 5 year old son are deeply grieved. We all felt the same about him. As I drove my son to school this morning, we cried all the way and sang "Hold Me Jesus" (my son's favorite song) and I told my son that now Jesus is holding Rich, forever. As a songwriter, I had hoped to attain the level of spiritual depth and maturity that Rich so fluently expressed. He was my mentor, and I will greatly miss him. But, like he said: "Here is my song, listen if you will, but I have no heart for it anymore, I've just half-a-mind to cut it loose, and if it sails off into the blues, then I'll just let it soar, in the sky's better keeping. And I won't be any poorer for giving it it's freedom... here's one for freedom." Now, we all must let him soar into the sky's better keeping, where he is truly free. There are really no words that can adequately describe the sense of loss we all feel. You cannot

listen to his songs for as many years as we have, without feeling like you know him personally, intimately. That's just the way he wrote. Good-bye old friend... I'll see you when I get home.

David Drennan

I know that this is a hard time for the families and friends of all involved. However, in dealing with the loss of my grandfather, I have learned that death is a part of life. Rich is home now. His heart's passion has been fulfilled. He can now sing his praises at the throne of the God whom he so adamantly loved. The question "why?" has and will be asked many times over. However, God was calling home one of His own. I celebrate today, not Rich's death, but his passing into the gates of Heaven where he is finally at home.

In His Love--

Leah McMullen

Student at Oklahoma Baptist University

How sad. He was here in Oklahoma City a few weeks ago, and I missed the concert because I didn't find out about it til after the fact. "Hold Me, Jesus" was the first Contemporary Christian song that hit me where I lived. It knocked me deeper into salvation than I had any idea I could go. Thank You, Jesus, for allowing us to share his gifts. Our prayers are with his family and friends for their immeasurable loss. There will be an eternal Moment of Silence in the Contemporary Christian Music world. But the show must go on. We love you, Rich, and we'll sing with you for eternity, ol' friend.

Your Brother in Christ

Tirk Wilder

Edmond, OK

I would like to offer my condolence to Rich's family and friends. I was deeply saddened by the news, but we all know he is in a better place. I know Rich will be "Singing His Praises to the Lord" hallelujah. He will be greatly missed.

As i heard off the press on fri about his death i was filled with joy only that he would be with his maker of whom his songs speak. Rich sang with a longing to be at his home that this place now is his country but his home was where he desired to be. I met him at a concert in syr.ny last year. Rich was shy and down to earth and yet he seemed like again this was a place he was just visiting distant but privileged to be used by god. Well he has and we rejoice in his life and his music that draws us near to a god who saves and gives life. Thank you rich and to his family who in ways i'm sure influenced him and shaped him thank you as well.

Katie Clarke

I interviewed Rich in April of this year and I found him to truly be the humble servant of God that everyone said he was. He can never be replaced but his example and influence will live on!

David Wang

I thank God Rich shared a part of him self with the public. I am a different person because of it. Thank-you Rich, you will be missed, until we meet in paradise, Sing your praise to the Lord, in person.

Al Antosca
Hudson, New Hampshire

Our loss is Heaven's gain.. He will be truly missed here, but I rejoice in knowing that he is in the Lord's presence now!! What a blessing that is. I pray that the Lord will give his family peace and comfort and I also pray that Mitch will recover fully and continue to do the Lord's Will.. In His Name I Pray, AMEN!

Kim Zeller

In my mind, Rich received the mantle of Keith Green. I cannot begin to put into words the encouragement that his music is to me. It put my mind on Jesus Christ and the grace and goodness of God. God has been so good to me through Rich's music, I know the hole will be filled, but today I can't quite see how. It all makes me want to go to heaven, just that much quicker, so I can join Rich and Keith in singing praises to the Lord. Maranatha - Lord come quickly! I am praying for his family.

Gordon Dykstra

It was just recently that I discovered the music of Rich Mullins. His "Songs" and "Brothers Keeper" albums really touched my heart and the heart of my family. Like a much-needed neck massage, his music massaged my soul and helped me to continue on in my ministry. His willingness to deal with his own weakness and to point out ours in songs such as "We are not as strong as we think we are" and "If I Stand" really touched me and encouraged me. We are praying for his family that God will hold them close and carry them through this time of grief.

Jerry Reeves

Not since hearing the news of the death of Keith Green in the

tragic airplane accident over 15 years ago have I felt like this.

But somehow, Rich's death is different...

I thank God Almighty that, unlike Keith Green, I was able to see Rich and Beaker in concert. I was taken back to find that before the concert, he was walking around in the crowd before the concert dressed in just a T-shirt, blue jeans, and old tennis shoes. I had never really gotten a close look at him before so I didn't recognize him when he walked right past me and said "hello." I said hello back to him in the usual, courteous manner. It wasn't until I saw him up on stage that I realized that it was him. He was still dressed in the manner I had seen him before, both him and Beaker. In that short second, Rich spoke VOLUMES to me about what it was like being real in your walk with God. As I saw the concert progress, Rich didn't seem to care about having to put on a show. Here was a guy, dressed in T-shirt and blue jeans, and on a stage with hundreds of people watching, giving the best concert I had ever seen in my life. With no back vocals or music except for Beaker, Rich literally poured his heart out onto the stage and let it flow into the audience.

I'm in tears now...

I would suppose that Rich's death is different by the simple fact that I feel much closer to Rich and his music than I did with Keith Green's. I've had the opportunity to grow in my walk with God because of Rich's simple but powerful songs as they have been composed over the years. Songs that were written from a aching heart. Songs that were written from an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness and utter majesty. Songs that reflected hopes and dreams. Songs that were written by someone who was real.

I would like everyone to know how much I love this man and his music. I have often wanted to write Rich and let him know how I felt about his music and ministry, but now I can't--at least not in this lifetime--and that's sad! Now, I can't encourage him and let him know how much I appreciate the countless hours he spent drafting and redrafting songs that I know were birthed from pure heart searching. Searching--not just for words, but for the RIGHT

words. Not just for some music, but for the right music. I am so glad that my life has been affected. And I've grown. At least for me, Rich has left a "liturgy and legacy" to remember and be contemplated while listening to his songs.

To his family, I would say "thank you." I will remember and love him too. I too am sad that he is gone.

With all my love for Jesus,
Mike Dunbar
Jacksonville, FL

I just wanted to add my sentiments about Rich Mullins as the rest of his fans and friends in Christ have done here. I went through the Friends University Music Education program with Rich as well as sang with him my freshman year in college. I know that the impact on the University itself is overwhelming. Rich was a truly devoted man of God.

Rich was a person that if you never even met him, you felt close to and those of us that got to know him were truly blessed. Rich was very clear on the fact that he was just passing through this world and looked toward the day that he could meet the person he looked up to the most... God. As we all mourn the loss of our friend, just know that he was ready. He knew that death did not mean the end but that his 41 year journey was just in preparation for the moment that he had "lived" to see.

In Christ's Love,
Mindy North

Once upon a time a lonely sinner with nowhere else to turn heard a song on the radio filled with words that could only describe exactly how she was feeling at that time in her life. That song was by Rich Mullins and was only one of many that touched my heart

over these years as I grew in my faith. I offer my sincere, heartfelt sorrow for the loss of this great Christian soldier. I feel Jesus is at this very moment is rejoicing because his brother has joined him in heaven. May the Lord our Father be with Rich's family during this time to comfort and uplift. We love you, Rich

Trey Raybourn

I first met Rich when we were college students in the late 70's and had the honor of being the drummer in his 1977 band at Cincinnati Bible College. I was only in the group for the first year, but in that time, I got to know a truly remarkable person who I knew would turn the world upside down wherever he touched it.

Some of my personal memories of Rich:

The joy he expressed when he got his first recorder. And how quick he picked up any instrument. One week a beginner, the next week he making beautiful music. Experimenting with different instruments and even furniture, etc. trying to find that unique sound that complimented the lyrics and lifestyle of Rich Mullins.

Going down the hill to the midnight "Dollar Flicks" at an old theater in Cincinnati. Later, talking into the night, spending the rest of the early morning hours sleeping on the couch in an apartment which was practically bare. Rich never had many worldly goods. But what he left behind were treasures beyond measure. His witness will shine in our hearts for many years to come.

Playing music with Rich was an incredible experience. So much creativity and talent in one man. He certainly found his niche. His ears were tuned to God's leading. He loved life and lived it to the fullest. Maybe that very exuberance contributed to his early departure, but if he hadn't lived more cautiously, it wouldn't have been our Rich.

I remember he was anxious for us to see a movie called "Brother

Sun, Sister Moon". This was an old scratchy movie about a man (that at the time I knew nothing about) named St. Francis of Assisi. That simple man, maybe even a "simpleton" who left all worldly goods behind became one of Rich's role model. As St. Francis kept that simple goal in front of him, so Rich Mullins never forgot that simple goal, love God with all your heart and love your neighbor more than yourself.

Rich loved the legend of the young Prince Arthur, humble and strong, kind and generous, his life cloaked in magic and mystery, and not even knowing he was a child of the King and destined himself for the throne. I think we found out that the musical "Camelot" was based on "The Once and Future King", read it and fell in love with that book. I've recommended that book to many since then and recommend it to you.

We both went our separate ways and only saw each other a few times since. But, these memories have always been special to me. Especially as I saw so many other folks embrace this odd, humorous, abrasive, expressive, emotional, lovable and loving child of God. Someone who bared his soul to the world. Someone who came to mean so much to so many.

Rich, we'll miss you. Thanks for everything. You've been a friend to the least of God's creation. Give Peter, Paul, Keith, Francis and the rest of the "Saints of old that have gone on before" a high five for us. And pray for us still down here. Our stories about *your* faith will help keep us strong!

Jon Hagee
- Lexington, KY

I saw Rich on the Brothers Keeper tour in Knoxville, it was wonderful. No trappings or gimmicks, just a man singing about His love for the Lord. I have been a fan of Rich since 1990, his music has meant so much, it has caused to think, cry, and inspired

me to write. I don't know what to say. I love you Rich, Goodbye my friend.

Bill S.

I thank God Rich shared a part of himself with us. I am a different person because of it. Thank-you Rich, you will be missed, until we meet in paradise, Sing your praise to the Lord, in person.

Al Antosca
Hudson, New Hampshire

Rich's music always had such depth and understanding of God and almost an insight to how God really is and how He views us humans. His music always lead me to think a little deeper and a little harder about many of the things God did. I was always so challenged and inspired. I'll be forever grateful for his impact. I feel that i've lost a friend and a mentor... praise God for all who shaped his life so he could shape mine...

I was so blessed to see him many times. But the last time I will not forget. His music has been a big part in my life. Songs like Sometime by Step and Allrightokahamen was two of the greatest song out there. I know Rich is in Heaven and he is now Singing his praise to the Lord. We all know that we are just visiting and we are not of this world, But it hard to see people pass away. But it time to say Goodbye and as one of Rich's friend sang with his other good friend "Friends are Friends forever when the Lord is part of it" We know God has a reason for everything. So Rich... my prays are with our love one's. And I will always remember his Music and what he left us.

Thank You Rich

Helen Radkiewicz

I am almost in tears as I'm typing this. I just wanted to let you know that Rich also touched my life in a special way. There aren't many Christian artists that do that to me. He seemed so humble and honest. But, praise GOD, he's home! And for now, his music will live on and continue to touch many.

I am praying for his family, friends and those who hear his music.... that lives would be saved, many would be comforted and encouraged, and that God would use this for His Glory. I know He will.

God Bless You,
Laura D.

Condolences May the Holy Spirit show Himself as the Comforter to the Mullins' families. None of us know how you feel, but we somehow share your grief. Thank you family, for lending us part of a remarkable man who was on loan to you from the One who still leads Rich "... step by step." How his following God days have changed! We pray with you for the recovery of Rich's friend as well.

Ray Williams

I just wanted to add a few words of my own to the list about Rich's life. Rich's music was so filled with the joy of knowing Christ that one couldn't help but smile whenever hearing his songs. My sister and I have both been uplifted and encouraged innumerable times by the love of Christ that Rich expressed through his music. His life was a blessing to us all and his

music will continue to be for a long, long time. Thank you Rich for giving us so much, and thank you God for sharing Rich with us.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Soukup

Heavens choir is sounding much better today
Sean

I feel this would be a wonderful epitaph for Rich:

Just as these words were written about the life of king David; "He served God's purpose in his generation, and then he died."

I think that says it all.

God bless you Rich.

Wayne Cameron
California

I knew Rich through a handful of his songs, through his Creed video, and a concert at GMA several years ago. A truly creative, joyful man. He struck me as a man comfortable with being who God intended him to be. We should all learn from his example. He has left us a lasting legacy in his songs, many of which will remain standards for worship. I look forward to getting to know him better when I too get to go home.

J. Larimore

I know Jesus loves me because he gave me Rich Mullins! Rich was my favorite musician: The songwriter/singer/musician I had been looking for my whole life. I think it's great that some of the best things I've found in life are direct gifts from Jesus. He was a wonderful, willing vessel through whom Jesus worked. Yes, to everyone else on this list, that humility was beautiful!!! My wife and I loved how, at the only time we were blessed to get to see him perform, on 11/24/95 in St. Louis, he went to the back of the stage to sing with the backing singers and let someone else take the lead. I miss him. You know, believers, another beautiful thing about knowing Jesus is that there are no goodbyes... only see you later. I look forward to personally meeting Rich and the rest of you as we enjoy his new songs in New Jerusalem. We all must re-energize ourselves with Jesus to "carry on" the legacy of one of his finest saints, to show non-believers the "real life" of joy, because "there's still room for one more at the foot of the cross." See you soon, Rich. Thank you Jesus!

Cordially in Jesus,
Mike Finley

an authentic Christian with a keen sense of where God was leading him, rich will be missed here on earth. he was definitely one of america's great balladeers. i'm grateful to have been one of those touched by his music. for that i say thanks to God. God bless the mullins family in your time of grief.

robin young

Disbelief, tears, numbness, why?, I hear Rich's answer in my head "God knows what He is doing". Mixed feelings. Selfish longing to keep him here. Pain in the loss of his example & inspiration, not to mention his extraordinary musical talent. Pain for the loss felt by his family, friends & fans. Conviction that God is in

charge. Joy for Rich.

To Rich's Family- My thoughts and prayers are with you. I do not pretend to feel the loss you are going through. I know the loss of a child, no matter the age, is devastating. Perhaps knowing how important Rich was to so many of us & how many are grieving his death with you can bring you some comfort. May you feel Gods presence as you all walk through this pain.

Rich-Thank you for:

All the music you shared with us---we'll "carry on"

Motivating us by making us uncomfortable

Standing as an example, pulling us closer to God

Sharing your true self with us, rebel and all I will miss you---
for now

William Hubble

Please convey my prayers and condolences to Rich's Family at this very sad news. It reminds me when I heard about Keith Green. Rich was a humble man and one of the best songwriters that I have listened to over my many years! We will miss him! I was struck by his song "Awesome God" Truly Rich is in the hands of his Awesome God, he is with Jesus in "heaven above."

Bill Mason

Dear Family of Rich,

I wanted to write to send my heart felt sympathies today. But all that keeps coming into my mind is the impact this wonderful person had on my life. I once told my husband that Rich Mullins was the bard of Christian music. You may be surprised to know that I am a Mormon, but he touched me as deeply as he touched anyone else in the world. The reason is simple, his songs were from the deepest part of his heart. The message was love, not preaching who was

right and who was wrong. He simply wrote about the love that filled and overflowed his heart for the Lord.

I wanted to share with you the sweet story of how he touched a babe still in the womb. I was pregnant with my first child and throughout the pregnancy I would listen to Rich, we own most of his albums. I would feel refreshed and able to keep trudging along. My husband worked 3 part time jobs and I was managing an apartment complex in south city St. Louis, so we were rarely awake at the same time. I was terrified and I had very rarely been alone in my life. Now I was alone most of the time and pregnant with my first baby. But Rich got me through it with those words of faith, devotion, courage and love.

But the most miraculous thing happened after the baby was born. I came home from the hospital with all the dreams of a first time mom. A sweet baby that would coo and smile and sleep through the night. Boy was I surprised, and I must say he was my most difficult baby. He would start crying at about 9 pm and cry for hours. I was sure I was the most horrible mom in the world. I began to suffer from Migraines and was hospitalized when they became so severe I could not function.

One night as I sat crying my husband, grasping at straws, Put my favorite Rich Mullins CD on hoping it would at least calm me. Ethan (the baby) got the most serene look on his face, he immediately stopped crying and fell asleep. Needless to say, our Rich Mullins collection and CD player lived in the Nursery for a long time. Ethan and I would rock every night as Rich would sing my son to sleep.

I know nothing can bring him back but maybe through stories like mine we can all know that he will live forever through all that he did for others.

From the things he did that everyone saw, to the babies he never knew he sang sweetly to sleep.

God Bless you all,

Kathleen L. Grubb

i am truly saddened about the news of rich's death. the greatest thing that i learned from him was about compassion. i saw a man who wasn't afraid to love or try to change people's opinions about conditions of love for those who we unfortunately push away. i will truly miss him, but i know that he is in a better place and that i will see him again.

Brendan Gould

This summer at the Cornerstone festival in Illinois God brought a Louisiana boy to the eyes and ears of one of God's greatest servants... I met Rich backstage after his surprise performance with 3rd day... I poured my heart out to him concerning some wrong choices I made in my life... rather than just telling me to pray for repentance and telling me Jesus loved me, He just put his arms around me and cried with me... No one has ever shared my pain with me before... he truly showed me a real Christ... not a historic figure... Now I guess by faith, the Holy Spirit shares my tears and sense of loss... Thank You God for sending an Indiana boy into my life for a few brief minutes that changed my views for a lifetime...

John

We have lost a great musician as well as a great thinker and a man we could all try to pattern our lives after. The Lord gave Rich great talent, and in a day where so many are using those talents for their own selfish gain, Rich instead used his to the glory of God. I cannot say that I am not saddened at the news of his death, but I know that I will see him again, and no matter how hurtful the heartbreak, that soothes even the most broken of hearts. I admire Rich for his willingness for God to use him, his

dedication to quality music, and his unerring dispensation of the truth. He was truly a special man among men. I was only able to see him one time in concert, but I remember the impact that one concert had on my life, and how impressed I was at God's blessing on his life, as it was shown through his talent and his boldness for Christ. He will be and already is missed terribly. Please pass on my condolences to his family, and know that I will be praying for his friend in the hospital.

Shalom,
Jennifer Smucker
Austin, Texas

My wife and I hated to hear the tragic news. We are praying for the Rich Mullins family and all of his friends.

Keith and Brenda Carr/Tulsa,OK

"If sing, let me sing for the joy
that has born in me these songs.
If I weep let it be as a man,
who is longing for his home"

Though I'm sadden by our loss of Rich, I'm glad that the longing of his heart has been realized which is to be home with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Death always come too soon and those who are left behind grieve for that loss. I'm glad that I can also rejoice (through tears) because he I know he is in Christ and I will see him again. I look forward to the music he would have composed. Awesome!

Carol Jones

Our family sends our condolences to the family of Rich Mullins. Just as he wrote "O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise you", so he is doing right now. Perhaps we should think of his "untimely" death as a reward from God for his faithfulness.

Pat Keating

May we continue to pray for rich's family as they move through their loss. Also to the fans who will greatly miss his talent. Continued prayers for Mitch and the medical staff as they tend to his needs. I also ask that people who read this pray for the semi tractor driver who was also involved in the accident. I pray that he has received the Lord as his personal Savior and if not, that this be an instrument for his to allow Jesus to be Lord in his life. Even though it is an accident this poor man must be going through so much. God bless you Rich as you now enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Lee Ann Wirick

Rich's songs and concerts spoke openly and truthfully the wonder, the struggle, the rejoicing and confusion that comes when a finite person attempts to live in relationship with an infinite God. His music and writings are like modern day Psalms - showing how we try to understand the winds of heaven, while living among the stuff of earth. The church often needs a massive dose of "Realness" as we so easily drift into separating the truth we know from the truth we live. Rich was as "Real" as they come, and helped me to connect those two truths in my life. He will be missed.

Be God's,
Larry Boss

I really appreciate the honesty and sensitivity with which Rich always sang and wrote his songs. Time after time in my life, I have often found myself 'down on my knees' in prayer after hearing one on the radio. While I know that he will be missed as a father and a husband, just remember that as a songwriter, Rich changed and impacted the life of thousands upon thousands of those just like me. And I thank God for that!

My heart goes out to you in prayer... may God console your fears and ease your pain. I hope that you see Rich's smile in everything that you do. God Bless!

-Mark

Rich Mullins was an extraordinary musician, but more importantly, he was a solid Christian. I'll miss the opportunity to hear his music live and his new music, but I'm sure that he's in a much better place now!

God Bless his family!
Toby

At first I was in shock. And then it settled in as a fact of life. Now, looking back on Rich's life, his ministry, his songs, I ask why God decided to take him now. though I was not around when Keith Green had died, I wonder if the effect is the same. His zeal for the Lord and for the Church has left a legacy to us. I pray that we may take up from where he has left off and continue advancing the Kingdom. My prayers are for his family, mother, and friends. May God's peace and the assurance of His perfect timing and sovereignty give comfort to us all.

Someday we will see Him again and we will never depart from each other's company. Someday we will all finally be Home.

Janet Yoon

I always wanted to write Rich and tell him what a powerful force his music had been in my life. I never did, thinking that he was probably already burdened with letters from adoring fans, and another one probably wouldn't make a difference. I guess, for now, I've lost my chance. Maybe in another place, in another world...

It has long been a dream of mine to attend one of Rich's concert. I have long awaited the day when he and I would be in the same place at the same time. I guess I won't be doing that...

I've always said that Rich was a psalmist in the order of King David. Sick of mamby-pamby Christian music with cute lyrics and catchy beats, he was one of the few Christian artists who challenged my faith, forced me to look beyond the veil of this present reality, and at the same time brutally exposed his own humanity in a way that made me feel a kindredship with him. And packaged in a musical style and artistic ability that was exciting and challenging in itself, due to its uniqueness, its style and its originality. More than once a line or a verse in one of his songs seemed to be ripped from my own life, perhaps from a current or recent moment in my life. I remember thinking, "So, someone else has experienced that as well," or "How did he know that?" And how many times did the uncompromising music itself challenge me in worship! The opening strains of "Calling Out Your Name" have always seemed to paint a picture of one struggling to break free of earthly bands and break loose in unfettered, utterly abandoned worship, the hammer dulcimer, at the end of each phrase, coming a little closer to freedom until it suddenly breaks loose and breaks forth and breaks out... How many times, driving across the fields of South Texas, I have raised my heart up to God to the strains of that song!

At this moment, one can't help remembering Keith Green. Brian William wrote, "a shooting star streaked across the starscape, slicing nearly from one horizon to the other. Returning home and

hearing the news of Rich's death, I know that surely that star was for him and the life he lived." It seems that there are those among us in whose graces and gifts we are allowed to share for a short time. Then, almost as if they are, in some sense, "too good" to continue here, they are taken away. We grieve. For our loss, not so much for theirs. Rich was one such. Perhaps his work here was done. It doesn't seem fair to us. We can only patiently await the day when we are allowed to see from the other side...

I never did convey to him what his music, his ministry, his God-given gifts, meant to me; how Jesus, through Rich's submission to Him, through his honesty and poetic gift, touched my life. In small atonement for that, I offer these words to you, his family and friends. Thank you for sharing Rich with us, and may we all enjoy a joyful reunion in that day when we all meet together.

With most heart felt sympathy baptized in my own selfish tears,
A. Scott Clement

Rich really touched my life, he was such a wonderful Christian man and singer. I am grateful that I became saved in 1991 and am thankful I had the opportunity to know Rich's wonderful music, he sang with the Holy Spirit, He truly was a wonderful man and I want to tell you lots of people will miss him but we will all see him again :) those who are saved and know the Lord , just as Rich did, praise Jesus for giving His life so that we could have eternal life..... Your family is in our prayers and Keep your eyes upon Jesus. I can't tell you how it feels to lose a son, I do have 2 young children and can truly sympathize with you... I pray that my children too will accept Christ as Rich did. Amen

N. Gamaine

Rich wrote in Elijah "the Jordan is waiting for me to cross

through" He looked forward to going home, to finally crossing that river into the land of Promise and rest with our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. His music has truly blessed my life and lifted me up in times of need. He knew his time would come and knowing that he wrote, "it won't break my heart to say goodbye." We miss you Rich, see you at Heaven's door.

Rich, now I know what it means to be shaking like a leaf. I will miss you brother.

Mark

I was so sorry to hear about his death. Sorry because we have lost one of the best song writers but happy that he is finally home, where we will see him again. My prayers are with his family, as well as Mitch's family. I can not tell you how many times his music brought me back from the edge of despair to remind me that my God was and is and will always be an awesome God, who holds me and loves me. I thank him for that incredible gift that he so willingly gave in son. Mrs. Mullins, you continue to be in my prayers, your son was one of the best men God ever created and I look forward to meeting him when I make it home.

Sincerely,
Giselle

For the past couple of years I've listen to christian music exclusively. I've come to recognize Rich Mullins as an incredible songwriter. I've talked to members of my church and we are all sadden by the lost of this great man of God. The christian music world will not be the same without him. We can take comfort in the fact that he is with his best friend and lord, Jesus Christ. My family prays that the Rich Mullins family can cope with this loss.

-- Perry M. Ball

I know that my sadness today is merely born of human selfishness, and that it will pass. I cannot imagine the beauty of new songs in heaven now that God's complete glory is hidden no longer from a ten-talent soul. Rich, that for providing "a hope to carry on your legacy of real compassion and joy". Praise be to the One who invented the color "Green" for having revealed to us the color "Rich"... we will miss you for now.

Derek-
Lexington, KY.

Last month, my nine year old daughter Rachel and I had the profound pleasure of seeing Rich Mullins in concert in the Detroit Metropolitan area. I have seen him in concert several times... each time was a new blessing. Rachel and I were deeply moved by his music... his talents... his love for Christ.

We have lost an apostle... a friend of the poor... and one of the most gifted Christian song writers and performers the world has ever known. I feel I have lost a dear friend.

To Rich's family and friends... Rich gave us more than anyone could imagine. His music radiated from the heart of Jesus. He had a special gift to "preach the Gospel to the whole world". We share in your grief of our loss but also in your joy knowing that he is with the Lord he served so well. Rich can finally sing his music at the feet of Christ with the choirs of angels!

To Mitch, his family and friends... Our prayers are with you for a full recovery. We pray for strength and total healing for you. You, like Rich, are anointed and blessed.

Greg Palmer

I rejoice that Rich is now "putting on the Ritz" with God, and experiencing first-hand what an awesome God He is. My prayers and love are with the families touched by this tragedy... and I believe God that they will know His grace & peace, which passes our understanding.

Shalom
CJ Snellen

I cried and cried and I sometimes felt silly, but my sister reassured me that it was OK because we probably knew Rich's heart and life better than some people we know personally. He will be greatly missed. I am happy and blessed to have been to several of his concerts and no two were ever the same. He had a way that cannot be expressed in words. We will miss him so much, and pray for his family and Mitch and his family. I'm going to have to go and buy that hammer dulcimer I have been wanted for so long and learn how to play it. It is a sad day for Christian music and those that have been touched by Rich and his music. My younger sister said it this way, how can we live without his music. I used to say, I need a Rich Mullins' concert fix and we'd drive for hours/miles to see a concert. Once we drove to Indiana, about 7 hours one way. Hold Me Jesus!!

Betsy Westfall
New Martinsville, WV

I just wanted to express my deepest condolences to you and your family. It is hard to believe that Rich is gone. I know that he is doing well, seeing the face of God and praising his name - like he has done hear on earth. He was the most humblest - christian man I have ever seen. He was truly an example like Christ. I know that he would want all of us to give glory to God instead of

him, so I will. I thank God for allowing Rich to reach out and minister to us through his words and songs. They were all so touching. It is good to see Rich finally at home with his father! He will be missed terribly, but his legacy will live on through the music that we hear from him and the memories that were made. Good-bye Rich! One day we will all be together again! May God Bless you and your family through this devastating time.

With my deepest sympathy,
Emily Chamberlain

For me, Rich's songs articulated God's heart, and what it means to be a child of God. I admired his reluctance to play the fame game, and his heart for the native peoples, who are among "the least of these." Although I never met Rich or attended one of his concerts, I feel I've lost a good friend, one able to put just the right words to things I couldn't express, and one whose actions affirmed those words. My heart goes out to Rich's family, to Mitch and his family, and to the others involved in the accident. I am praying for you.

"... and I'll meet you in that place where mercy leads."

Coram Deo,
Steven Crane

Having worked at a large contemporary christian station in Pennsylvania for over a year, I know what an influence Rich's life and work had on the lives of people around the world. His music touched the hearts of people near and far, and though Rich has been taken to be with the Lord, his message will live on forever.

Rich's family and friends are in the thoughts and prayers in our home.

Lora L. Twichell,
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Rich's music will continue to reach people for our Lord and Savior. May we look forward to seeing him in Heaven.

In His Mighty Grip,
Dan - Deuteronomy 31:6

I first learned who Rich Mullins was when I read the credits for "Sing Your Praise To The Lord" on Amy Grant's Age To Age project. I didn't see the man until Spirit Song '95 at King's Island. When he walked out onto the stage barefoot, I was taken aback - I was surprised at his "just one of you" attitude. I was instantly a fan. I was at church Sunday morning leading my Lutheran congregation in Awesome God, not knowing that he had been gone for over 24 hours. It was not until that evening that I heard about a tribute Monday morning "... to the memory of Rich Mullins" on a Cincinnati station (WNLN). I almost ran off the road here in Dayton in total shock. I've been in tears, or on the verge of them, ever since. To me, this is more of a loss than a Princess. Rich still is a true disciple of Christ, an example of how to follow Christ, regardless of how far you've fallen...

"I'll carry the songs I learned when we were kids
I'll carry the scars of generations gone by
I'll pray for you always and I promise you this...
I'll carry on, I'll carry on"

J Rowe

One of the members of our worship team said it best, "Nobody put the Gospel to music like Rich Mullins!" AMEN!!!

Rick

Like thousands of others, I was shocked and saddened to hear of Rich's death. I do believe, however, that Rich is a Christian who is not afraid to stand before the throne of God. I could prattle on about his accomplishments, but I believe Rich would prefer to be remembered by a simple epitaph: "He served God".

Tim Shelfer

Rich's ministry can continue on through the recordings he leaves behind. I never met the man, nor attended one of his concerts. I was touched by the Holy Spirit at work through his art though and am thankful for it. As one other respondent observed, many a congregation sings his music and extends the Lord's providence of which Rich was only a tool. My prayers are with Mitch and both men's family's. Their loss (and ours) is truly heaven's gain.

Pokey

Bikers For Christ Motorcycle Ministry, Inc.

My name is Rhonda Eudaly. I worked for KLTY in Dallas for a couple of years and now have a music column in a Christian news magazine here in Dallas. Rich was an important part of the path God has put me on, as he has with many many others. I and many others within my church and the Christian community all keenly feel his loss. My music minister, had he been given more time, was of the heart to redo the entire Sunday morning worship last weekend to tribute Rich.

Please tell his mom that I am writing a tribute for her son that will hopefully run in the November issue of my publication. I am getting some thoughts and feelings from musician friends of mine

national, international and regional to add to my own feelings of Rich's passing.

His loss has impacted us all. Though just imaging the music in Heaven right now with Rich and Keith Green together is enough to bring tears to the eyes. Rich was only on loan to us, and we are all much better for having him for a short time.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Eudaly
Dallas, Texas

I am even now finding comfort in his lyrics, comfort for the loss of a friend I never met, yet felt I knew.

The peace of Christ to you
Patrick Lane

Sovereign God,
You have blessed all of Christianity with your faithful servant. Thank you for the time Rich had on earth to submit to your will and thereby show the love of Christ. May the Holy Spirit comfort the family, the friends, the admirers. May we truly not sorrow as those without hope, for we know in whose hands he now resides.

Jim Napier

Hold Me Jesus is the first song of Rich's i heard that i was aware of as his. how many times have i been shaking like a leaf? at a time when i was without words to pray, i happened across that song.. a gift from a friend.. and i found the words to pray... just hold me Jesus. since then i've found many things to pray in his words. i heard him at Cornerstone '97. now i'm even more homesick for a place i've never been.

-- the krying muse

Imagine the chorus of angels singing "Our God is an awesome God"
as he stepped through the portal!

Rev. Bill Scott

I truly am sorry for your grief. I have had a child die. I can
relate to your pain. If you would like to call me sometime to
talk, the number is 918-825-6514.

Please know that I thought a lot of your son. He was truly a
talented young man.

Let me know how more I can help.

-- Lloyd Colston
Pryor, OK

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Rich Mullins death. While
the world has lost a man of great faith and talent, heaven has
gained an exceptional voice to add to His choir. I share the
grief his family feels at this time, I lost my mother and a nephew
in a similar accident and fully understand what they are going
through. At the same time, I also share the joy of knowing where
my mom, nephew Sean, and Rich are at this very moment! Let's all
"Sing our praise to the Lord" in his memory!

Kelly Boyd

I'm so sorry to hear of the death of Rich Mullins, what a great man he was. His music and ministry touched so many people that his name will not long be forgotten. We had him on this earth for 41 short years, and then the Lord called him home. We are all better for better people for his ministry and music.

God bless and you are all in our prayers
Nick Covello

As you begin to recover from the shock of losing your loved one; I pray that you will see how precious his life was and all of our lives are to the Lord.

This weekend the Lord was showing me many scriptures regarding the temporariness/temporal of this life and how this life is but a dream. We will all awaken in eternal life, the true life, one day if we choose to accept Jesus as our Lord.

I pray that this exit by Rich will affect many young people even further than his music ministry, by showing them the frailty of humanity and the fear of the Lord.

I am not a normal fan of Christian music even though I live in Nashville, Tn. but I own several Rich Mullins CD's and the Lord has used them in my life.

I believe Rich had tapped into true worship by separating himself from the "music industry,"; by serving others,; and by prophesying and ministering to the Lord in worship. I see in him what all true worshippers of the Lord are called to do. And even though he left this earth at such a young age; I see that he fulfilled his calling and his destiny.

I'm sure the Lord is greeting him now with, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

I pray that you be comforted in your time of loss and that the Lord grant you peace. I also pray that you would draw near to God

and that HE would draw near to you.

Bless you,
Christi Ray

I would like to extend my condolences to the Mullins family.

I have always been touched by Rich's Awesome God, and my wife and I sing it out loud whenever we hear it.

The world has lost a great brother, friend and a ministry for our Lord. God has gained another voice in the Heavenly Choir.

From this Canadian family to all of you, accept our sympathies and may we all meet one day in Heaven, with our "Awesome God"..

Carlo Klemm

The song, "Our God Is An Awesome God" is one of the most beautifully written songs that I have ever heard. I praise the Lord for a man like Richard Mullins. I know that for many of the people that I know, it was music like his that brought people back to the Lord. God used him to lead others to the Lord. Our loss is Richard's gain. He is now singing those beautiful songs to our precious Savior now. We will miss you Richard. Thanks for sharing your Jesus.

Suzie

I first came to know Contemporary Christian music through Rich Mullins and his music. It was Good Friday in 1993 and some friends & I were driving to a special Good Friday service at a Monastery towards Big Sur, California. It was a beautiful day

with the colors just vibrant. We came upon some hills just south of Carmel we saw how full of green they were. At the same time the song "The Color Green" came on and it was just powerful imagery for what the day represented. That was my introduction to the incredible humble man that Rich Mullins is along with his incredible music. When my wife and I saw him in concert 2 years ago we were so moved by his music, his words, and his example.

I rejoice that he is now home with the Father but I grieve for a world that is so badly in need of the Father's work through Rich. Rich you have been an incredible influence on so many here on Earth. Thank you for your talents and your humbleness.

- John Brooks

Just a note to mention how shocked I was hearing the tragic news of the death of Rich Mullins. Although we have lost a great musician and lyricist we have reaped the benefits of music that draws us closer to our Lord. He now plays his music in the very presence of God in heaven. Amen!

Anthony Doheny
Kent, Washington

To Rich's family,
We share your loss, though it is only temporary. May you be comforted by the One who Rich sang so beautifully about. Our daughter, Carrie, at Wheaton College, wants to send her prayers as well. May He cushion you as only He can.

In His love and with gratitude for the gift Rich is,
Jim and Susan Richmond, Yakima, WA
Carrie Richmond, Wheaton, IL

I don't want to lose the eternal for the things that are passing
'Cause what will I have when the world is gone If it isn't for the
love that goes on and on with My one thing You're my one thing And
the pure in heart shall see God

Rich had a keen awareness of things eternal, and losing him so
unexpectedly reminds us that the things of this world and life are
so temporary... may his message of the hope that is ours in
Christ deeply touch us in these days, reminding us to run the race
for the joy set before us.

Kelly Mirone

We weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. But
we are not like those without hope. Our hope is in our Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Even as Rich's music will continue to live in each of us, it would
be his greater hope that God's Holy Spirit would live in each of
us.

At our wedding, my husband and I incorporated the powerful
testimony "Creed" into the ceremony. We will celebrate our third
anniversary this Wednesday, Sept 24. We will remember Rich's
family in our prayers and pray for the healing of Mitch.

Janice Andrews

Several years ago, just into college, an old high school buddy
made me sit down and listen to a song off a goofy looking LP with
a yellow cover... they didn't even get the guy's head in the
cover's picture. The song was "Save Me". It sliced through years
of crusty religion to touch something inside of me that longed for
something to be real about God. Rich Mullins... that guy that
interned at a church across town one summer? He was the one!

Our sovereign God, has continually used those quirky songs from Rich to draw me to Himself and challenge the box that I tend to want to put God into. To challenge my ever-present tendency to build walls around myself to make my Christian world a comfortable place to live with a God I have all figured out. When I think of Rich and the songs he passed on to us, I think of Colossians 3:3 - "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (The verses that sandwich this one are good & relevant, too.)

All through these comments, what I really see is the hand of God more than the life/music of Rich. I bought Rich Mullins CDs but when I played them I found them to be Jesus CDs instead. When I listen to his music, I do so to meet God, and surprise, God shows up. When I mourn now, I do so longing for God to hold my shaking heart and assure me that He won't leave us (me) without a voice singing out of simplicity & purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor 11:3).

And since it's all about God, I pray His hope will surround Rich's family, and His sovereign hand will carry Mitch forward in healing and joy.

Later, Rich...
Todd Holloway

His music and ministry had the most significant impact on my life of any other artist. I met him once, and found he was just as genuine in person as he was on stage. God used his music to touch my spirit in a powerful way, always bringing it to me in times of my greatest need. My prayers are with his family, and with Mitch and his family as well.

-Jessica

Dave and Robyn,

Our Prayers are with you. Your brother was a very great man, and Dave you too are great! Be strong - I will miss him.

Tony Stokes

I never met Rich Mullins in person, but his music has touched my life in a profound way. When I first accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, Rich's song "Awesome God" would play. That song would give me the strength in the spiritual battles that I faced then and now. He is with our Lord now and someday I will meet him and thank him for expressing his love for Jesus in his songs the way I would have liked to.

Remember: He is not gone... just away

Cory

Thank you Rich. How is it that you could speak to me so clearly when I've never even met you? Lord, I know this brother is with you; help him to see clearly the lives he has touched for you, help him to hear my thanks. Thank you Lord for this man's life. Hold me Jesus.

Debby Law

I want to express my deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and fans of Rich. We are all his brothers and sisters, and we will all miss the way he took the thoughts in our hearts and made them alive through music. His music helped me to hold on to Jesus when all seemed dark. He truly reflected the light of our Lord Jesus Christ in his service. I know that he is now with the "one thing" that he desired, and that he no longer has to weep as a man longing for his home - he's there, and one day we can all stand

together and sing to our Awesome God as one.

Katie

God is good to those who love him. Rich was a great man. I heard of his death at a Bryan Duncan/Bob Carlisle concert. I truly am sorry for your loss. But at least know, you no longer have to worry about him getting hurt! And he isn't hurting right now.

Fred

Rich Mullins music touches my heart and soul like no other Christian artist. To hear the news took my breath away and ran chills down my body. Last night I found comfort in listening to one of his songs "If I Stand", where one verse stood alone in my head. He sang "So if I stand let me stand on the promise that You will pull me through, And if I can't let me fall on the grace that first brought me to You, If I sing let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs, BUT IF I WEEP LET IT BE AS A MAN WHO IS LONGING FOR HIS HOME." Rich will be missed but he is Home now and that is a far greater place.

Please let his family know that he touched my life and I will be praying for their peace.

In His love,
Jami Lyons

I saw Rich twice in Colorado Springs. Both times, it was the way he played the Hammer Dulcimer that really intrigued me. He could play that so well, it was like he was the dulcimers' creator. I never realized what a beautiful instrument it was until I heard him play. Even from the first time I ever saw him, I could tell he was a very humble person... not in the business for himself,

but for God. I will always admire him and he will be missed!!

Jackie Flies

Ma'am,

Rich was such a powerful man. He devoted his life to the service of others, and he will surely receive his reward for his work. Rich's music was so powerful because of the humbleness with which it was written and presented. For Rich wrote and sang not for his fans, but for his Lord Jesus Christ. I am sure Rich is busy singing his praise to the Lord.

Grace and Peace to You,
Ian Dickey

You all have probably received hundreds, maybe even thousands, of letters talking about Rich and what his life meant. I am probably just one more, but I wanted to share with you a story. I had the privilege of seeing Rich perform in Joplin, Missouri last summer. The concert really changed me. I am a college sophomore who had been struggling with my faith and was about ready to give up. But, when I went to the concert and saw Rich sing, I was deeply moved. Here was a man who had given his life to God. He didn't sing for himself or for me, he sang for Our Father. At the same time, Rich related to the entire audience as a human being. When my Mom told me the news of his passing, I thought of where I was when the accident happened. I was at a meeting of College Crusade - the Christian group on my campus. Without the influence of Rich, I don't think I would have been attending that meeting. My prayers and thoughts go out to you. May our Awesome God get you through this time of loss.

In Christ's Love,
Amanda Ross

Goodbye Rich - I will continue to "Reach out to Jesus and hold on tight. He's been there before and he knows what it's like." We all will "find He's there."

To Rich's family: Thanks for sharing Rich with all of us who loved his music. He taught us a lot about the Christian life and daily walking with God. We will miss him, and our hearts ache for you right now. May the God of all comfort keep you in His peace. Only He can.

Karen Crowe

My condolences to Rich's family and friends. I have always admired his musical workmanship. It is a tragedy to lose such a humble man, and I pray that God will use this sad time for good--especially since that is what Rich would have wanted. We miss you Rich, but we will see you up in heaven leading the worship there. I praise God for the life that you lived!!!

John Hutt

I just wanted to thank you for all the years you put into your Rich's life.

What an Awesome Man of God. I know how it hurts to lose something so precious and to have all the millions of Questions come to mind of How and Why. But the Maker of the Universe is a Father to all and He knows what we need far better than we ever could. This Life we now know is by no means the Big Picture. Rich has open my eyes to see the fullness of why we should not get wrapped up in all the "stuff" we create in our day to day living. This life is not what we often think it to be. All that matters is the restoration of our relationship with our Father, through Jesus Christ. I am reminded of the last line of one of his songs, "It

won't break my heart to say goodbye". What a Homecoming there was, as Rich was reunited with the Father he had been Separated from his whole life. Joined now, not just in spirit, but in person, forever. Lord, I pray that you minister to this family and give Peace that only you can, for your peace passes ALL understanding and brings the fullness of Joy. Blessing, Honor and all Praise be to our Awesome God who is totally in control. Thank you Lord for being in control. Neva, I speak the Peace of Christ to You.

Rich, we will see you on the other Side and say Thank You face to face!

Chris Brown
Kounzte, Texas

In two weeks I am getting married to a man a love deeply. I had told Rich Mullins after a concert in St. Louis that we were planning on beginning the ceremony with Step by Step - I am not sure if I can still do this. My heart is broken.

Lilly

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gifts and abilities you gave to this man. He has ministered to so many people, and I want to personally thank you for the words to his songs that have been so effective in keeping my heart, soul and mind stayed on you. Comfort his family and friends as they adjust to life without Rich. During this time, we know that you are still awesome, and you still reign, as Rich often reminded us.

David Dameron

Rich's music touched all. 7 year old Jessica died 2 years ago and her favorite song was Awesome God. Now she is singing in Heaven with him. May his songs live on in our hearts forever and comfort all he left behind. Our prayers are with his friends and family we know the loss. Thanks Rich for all your songs!

Laura Melton

God has really touched my life through the songs He gave His servant, Rich Mullins. My prayers are lifted to God on behalf of the Mullins family, Mitch and his family. May God continue to use the anointed songs of Rich Mullins to strengthen and edify the Church, praise and glorify God, and pierce the darkness with the light of His word. See you in Heaven Bro (in Christ)!

James Grille

He wrote so many beautiful songs that have inspired me. He truly was a talented songwriter. In his songs he talked about being with Jesus and as sad as his death has been we know he is finally in heaven with our Lord. I pray for God to give you comfort in this extremely difficult time. Just remember that his legacy lives on through his music and through his music he will continue to inspire many for years to come. May God Bless you!

With love in Christ,
Yolanda Villanueva

Dear Mrs. Mullins

Your sons music has been a part of ours family life since our oldest daughter was 13 She sang Awesome God!and God Put a call on her life for Missions. She is now a missionary with Ywam and our whole family want you to know that we know someday soon We will all sing together at the Marriage supper of the Lamb.I know

knowing he is home with Jesus gives you great peace as we lost out younger daughter years ago .We wept for the Lord took our little girl but we rejoiced knowing she was in Jesus Hands.He is too!!! Blessings to your family.

Love in Christ
Lynnette Davis and Family

Like all of the Rich Mullins fans, I am deeply saddened by Rich Mullins' death. When my grandfather died last November, my family received a card with something close to the following message I thought I would share it.

As you look at the back of a hand craft (particularly anything involving thread), all you can see is chaos and a mess. It is not until you see the front that the craft becomes beautiful and you can see the purpose of all the mess on the back. As we live our lives on earth, we are looking at the back. God is the master. He is looking at the craft from the front. Sometimes we don't know why such terrible things happen in life to such good people, but God has a plan. God has a plan to make things beautiful in the end.

My thoughts and prayers are with the everyone far and wide who have been affected by the passing of a truly beautiful person. God Bless

As I sit and muse about Rich's passing I think of a concert in South Bend, IN where I first heard the song "Everywhere I Go I See You." I remember the feeling of the presence of God that I felt as I sang the echo part. It is my prayer that we would follow Rich's example of practicing and seeing the presence of Christ everywhere we go and in everything we do.

Thanks so much for the effort that you put into the Rich Mullins

Fan Page. My husband and I really appreciated it. We share the sense of loss and yet there is joy in knowing that he "gave his life to see sing His praise"!

Elisa M. Kephart
Albuquerque, NM

Rich was an awesome man serving an Awesome God. He will be missed.

Laurette

He was, and will always be my favorite christian musician and performer. His music, compassion, and sincerity connected with me in a way no other kind of music has. I was fortunate to attend several concerts when he visited South Bend, and most recently at the WHME TV station where he performed to an smaller group of individuals for 2 hours. I know that as christians we should accept his death with grace, but I can't help but feel he was taken away too soon and feel somewhat cheated in not being able to witness future contributions from Rich - he always gave so much of himself to others. My brother was having a difficult time and when Rich heard of his hardship, he took time out to pray with him and extended an invitation for him to spend Easter with him in New Mexico. My prayers go to his family and friends. I miss you Rich!

Lora Tatum

Rich will be missed. There will be a void left forever in Christian music. I thank God that another mansion has it's full time residence. Rich is home... awaiting the arrival of the rest of his family.

Billy

Dallas, Texas

I am a college professor in Texas, and the advisor to a Christian organization started here on campus by my students. I heard the news of Rich Mullins' passing as I was on my way to our Sunday morning meeting. As none of the students had yet heard, it became my responsibility to pass on this news. Their response was beautiful; we sang songs of worship and praise (lamenting the fact that we had not planned an entire service of Rich Mullins tunes), prayed for Rich's family and for the family of Mitch McVicker, and spent the majority of our worship service sharing stories about Rich and his music ministry. In contrast, we had devoted approximately 20 minutes to the death of Princess Diana, and 5 minutes to the news of Mother Teresa. Why and how did Rich Mullins touch my students so deeply? Simple, he was one of us. Grounded in truth, uplifting and praiseful, and, most of all, giving. I was encouraged that my students have recognized those traits in Rich to be ones they would like to emulate. Praise God. Finally, as we were about to leave the building after the service, one student stayed behind, and offered a final thought. "I guess the choir in Heaven will be rocking out today!" Amen.

Brad Baker

We are all devastated by Rich's loss. By the same token, we cannot wait to sing the music he is writing now, now that he's seen Jesus face to face. What he must be singing now...

Lori Cullen

I loved the fact that he was so humble, not at all pretentious. I loved the fact that he always had a Diet Coke with him. I loved the fact that he talked politics at his concerts. I loved when at

the end of the show he would leave and we would all still be singing and worshipping God and not knowing that he was gone. I think I am really going to miss him. But I believe that I will see him again.. which is cool...

Leslie Ramusack

I recently took a driving trip alone on the Pacific Coast Highway from San Francisco all the way down to San Diego. It was an opportunity to appreciate God's creation, being in the midst of the mountains, woods, forests, and ocean. I took Rich's music with me, and listened to his songs all along the way. His music only magnified my appreciation for the splendor of God's creation. My faith was renewed, and my soul was refreshed. I appreciate Rich so much and look forward to the day when I can personally thank him in Heaven. May God richly bless his beloved family.

Liang "Lee" Hsia
Dallas, TX

I just wanted to extend my condolences to Rich's family and friends... he will be sorely missed, but at the same time, his life has been such an amazing witness to the depth of love that God has for us and that a person can have for God. Just listening to Rich's music, and seeing the world through his eyes, gives a glimpse of the world as it should be - a beautiful place that glorifies God - rather than the tired world the rest of us see. Rich's music led me closer to God through some really terrible times in my life, and for that I will be forever grateful to my brother in Christ.

May God's comfort be upon you.
Cathy Clark

Rich's music touched my heart like no other artist's in the world. The Lord used it mightily in my life and my soul. My first reaction is sorrow for me and for those who will miss him on earth, but we know that he is in heaven with the FATHER. I saw him in concert the two times he was in the states of SC and GA. As a teacher, I was most impressed by Rich's desire and ability to get a degree to teach music to children on the Indian reservation where he spent the last two years. To him, the life and soul of a child outshone the fame that he never sought but could have had from his music ministry. As we pray for his family and friends, please do not forget the students he taught as well. At his concert, his love for the Lord and his love for children were seen as he discussed his passion- Compassion International.

Sharon Hamilton

Mrs. Mullins and Family,

I cried last night as I sat in bed listening to "The Creed." I found out about Rich's death at my singles class Sunday morning. I was and still am in shock.

I have been a back-slidden Christian lately, Rich's death was a slap in the face I much deserved. To think that such a wonderful man of Christ gave life his all was a reminder that I need to do the same.

I saw Rich in Dallas a few years back. When he asked the audience to sing it was wonderful. You could feel God's Spirit in the harmonious sound. I am pleased that Rich is with a choir that has no end and I look forward to meeting him.

He was a true talent, thank you for your part in the gift of his life.

Regards,
Brad Cutsinger

Houston, TX

What an honor to have Rich in our lives... his songs have touched the heart of all who hear them. In our sadness, we must rejoice for Rich will be celebrating his first Sunday in heaven!! May God bless his family.

Cindy

Dear Mullins Family,

I just wanted you to know my heart is with you in this great time of sadness. I've lost family members in my lifetime and I can feel the grief you are going thru. I learned of the tragic news on the way to church Sunday morning and my first thought was he is with the Lord. I know God is going to comfort you in this great time of sorrow. Rich has been a blessing to all of us out here in radio land and I know his music will continue to be a blessing. Just keep looking up to the heavens and know he is smiling down on you. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. We will all miss him, but one day we will all be going home to be with him and the Lord. May you find comfort in the things I've said and may you feel the love that is coming from my heart which can only come from the Lord.

Take care and stay strong,
Sandra Bryant

Indeed, our God is an awesome God! I appreciated the ministry of Rich and his devotion to our Lord. His life will live on in the legacy he left behind.

May the God of all peace comfort and guard your hearts in Christ Jesus until that great day of reunion!

Rev. Jim Taber
First Advent Christian Church
Morganton, NC

I am so sorry at the death and loss of Rich and we are praying for each person in his family and friends that they would draw close to the Lord and rejoice at the beautiful music that Rich is now making to our Lord. We all look forward to the day of our reunion with loved ones and being together in the presence of our Lord. Let's be inspired by Rich's life and serve the Lord and do His will to the utmost of our ability until the day we are reunited. Thank You Lord for the gift of Rich for the time we had and thank you he served You so wholeheartedly. May we learn to serve you with the same zeal.

You truly are an awesome God!
Lia Bergen

I am on the Kansas West Conference Council on Youth Ministry... the group that was hosting the concert Rich Mullins was traveling to do the night he died. We are all deeply moved by Rich's ministry and music. We lament at his sudden death and pray for his family and for Mitch and his family.

We also celebrate Rich's life and music. The rally we planned for the day of the concert... was great... it's what Rich would revel in... youth and adults coming together for fellowship and celebration in the name of the Lord!

Step by Step Rich... you have show us way of living for Christ. You will be physically missed but never forgotten. You're ministry and spirit continue to grow in us.

Heidi McAllister

My husband and I were saddened by the news of Rich Mullins' death. It hit us harder than did Princess Diana's death. Rich was a remarkable man and no greater love did have than for God. My husband has been inspired to create his own music, reflecting some of Rich's work and choice of sounds and percussion influence. A great Christian man was taken from here, but we rejoice in knowing where he has gone!!

By His Grace -
Tony and Mellany Archer

I am very sad to hear of Rich's passing. I know he is in a much better place now. One that he was looking forward to with great anticipation. He would have us be happy for him, I am sure.

Just wanted you to know that his music touched me personally. He was very instrumental in getting me back to the Lord after I had put Him on the shelf in my life. I praise the Lord for Rich and his music, and now I pray for the family and friends. The Lord be with you all. Thank you.

Douglas Brininstool

I have been working with youth/teenagers for about 9 years now. I have yet to come across a song so very powerful as Awesome God. I say that because it has reached so many youth (and continues to do so) with its message of who God really is. Rich had such an unbelievable God given talent to weave a song that truly represented the Spirit of God. I am also thankful to God that he loaned Rich to us for a time. Even in death Rich will still touch many. My prayers and thoughts go out to Rich's and Mitch's family, friends, and fans.

Wayne Waffird

Sorry to write so late but I've only just received the news here in Singapore thru' e-mail. Though I've never had the opportunity to meet him face to face, I have always been moved by what Rich has to say thru' his songs and his interviews and articles. He has been a great encouragement to me in my Christian walk and I will always remember him most of all for his humility before the Awesome God that he knows and shares with us.

Thank you Rich Mullins, and hope to really meet you over Jordan Someday!

David Poon

Rich has been my favorite artist for years. When I had my first child, I had just purchased my first Rich Mullins CD "The World As Best As I Can Remember It, Vol. I". I must have played that CD several hundred times in the first few months of my daughters life. Often with tears running down my eyes as I tried to sing with him "Step by Step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days." This was a real turning point in my life, and Rich's ministry through his music was a big part of it. "Step by Step" is my daughter's and my special song. Since then, I have bought virtually every CD Rich ever put out. Time and again He has put into words things I barely knew I felt.

When I was blessed to hear him in concert a couple of years ago (with an unsaved friend who was intrigued by Rich's music) I saw that Rich was as wonderful a person as he was an artist. I thank God for him. I know that Rich is home. And I know that I can use his words, sincerely, with many others as I say, "If I weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his home."

In His Love,
Ken Auer

Fuquay-Varina, NC

Six or seven years ago I was involved in the Music Ministry at Bethany Community Church in Tempe, Arizona, and was privileged to be able to provide some of the back stage support for one of Rich Mullins' concerts at the church. Right before the concert was to start, Rich came running through the back stage area in his bare feet and grabbed all of us "go-fers" and asked if we would please pray with and for him. During that time of prayer I got to see the heart of a true servant of God. He was a man unaffected by the trappings of fame who truly sought to do the will of the Father. His total concern was not for the details of the concert but that someone in the audience might be touched by the message and receive the Gospel.

Throughout much of Rich Mullins' music is a deep understanding of the rich tapestry of the history of Christianity and a reverence for the role we all play. If Isaiah were alive today and writing songs, I believe he would write music much the same as that written by Rich - prophetic, inspiring, and grounded in the scriptures.

The only comfort I can take in the loss of Rich Mullins is the faith that when it's "my time to roll" I will get to meet him again and once more listen to him sing his music live.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences and my prayers.

Jim York

Glendale, AZ

My husband and I just loved Rich and his music so much. The two concerts we attended were like going to Bible school. And it's funny, as I listen to his songs now I understand them ever better and my heart is even more open to their messages. I want to play and sing Rich's songs for my son and daughter as they grow and hope they, too, want to be a kid like Jesus, just like Rich did.

Love to family and friends...
peace of Christ to you.
Sarah Shaver,
Charleston, WV

This past Friday night, the Christian population here on earth suffered a terrific loss as Rich Mullins was called home to the Lord. While this loss brings great heartache to those of us left behind, it is an incredible gain for Rich, who is now surely in the presence of the Almighty God. I was privileged to see Rich in concert during Texas A&M's Resurrection Week in 1996. As I sat near the front of the auditorium, I beheld Rich giving what was perhaps the most unique and special concert I have ever heard. It was obvious that God was working greatly in this man's life, as I am sure He will work in his death.

The awesome talent that God had bestowed upon Rich was wonderful to see. Rich's love for his savior was evident. God used him to touch many lives and reach many hearts, including mine. No, as it has already been said, the Jordan is no longer waiting for Rich to cross. We will miss him here, but at the same time excitedly await the day we will be reunited with him on the other side, in the full glory of our Awesome God.

Michael Kirschner

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

When I heard about the death of Rich, the first person I honestly thought of was you. I am a 35 year old woman with 2 21 month old boys and another child on the way. As my two precious boys laugh in the other room, I couldn't image the loss of them.

But, your Rich did something really special in this world -- he

was honest.

When I first became a Christian (only 4 short years ago), I wanted to listen to Christian music. What I found was most of it was "Isn't life wonderful now that I'm a Christian?" Well, it's not always wonderful. In some ways, it's more difficult now that I follow Christ than when I was part of the world. I'm from New Jersey, the sugar sweet music I was hearing, wasn't for my life.

My future brother in law, who was only 17 at the time, played for me Rich Mullins. I couldn't believe what I heard. Rich spoke the truth about life here - how we love it here and yet how we really don't belong, how life can be so difficult and so precious, and how Jesus is so wonderful and how we need to live up to his standards, despite being human.

I went out and bought 6 of his albums that day. A few months later, the whole family (my future in laws, 2 future brother in laws, and 2 future sister in laws and myself & fiancée) went to see Rich in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Here was ages from 55 to 18 and all enjoyed the music.

But, what I really remember about that concert is how vulnerable he was. How he talked about his own faults and short coming and how he made himself real for all of us. He not only spoke of how important his Indian heritage was to him, he showed how he was trying to bring his people to Christ with "The Jesus Way."

It was a great concert and we were blessed enough to see him a few months ago at Philadelphia Bible College.

I cannot express my feeling of loss that I feel, and know it must be so difficult for you. My husband Joseph cried when he heard Rich was killed, it really devastated him. Your son was a great lyricist and a wonderful person.

God bless you!

Love,

Marci Palumbo

To Rich's mother may I say that I am very, very sad for you. I, too, lost a child but I never got to hold her. God has blessed me with three other children, and I pray that their lives will reflect the Light of Jesus just as your son's did. Rich must have had countless prayers being prayed for him even before his birth. Truly he was a witness of God's power, love, grace and mercy. Rich's gentleness and willingness to laugh at his own mistakes in front of enormous crowds were qualities that endeared him to me. The first time my husband and I saw him in concert in Maryland he talked about the many times he would get lost in wonder at the awesomeness of God as he sat on the tractor as a farmboy in Indiana. He taught us, the audience, how to make the sounds of a midwest thunderstorm. But more than that, he taught us how to worship, how to sing our praise to the Lord and he brought us into God's presence with him. Unlike other musicians, Rich never gave me any impression that he was "performing" but, rather, was humbly worshiping His Savior with all he had to offer. I thank you, his mother, for the love you poured into Rich's spirit and soul as only a good mother can. My heart aches with you and I sincerely pray that you will feel Jesus holding you, too.

Pat Zubrowski

We have just learned of the untimely death of Rich Mullins. Our hearts are saddened by this tragedy. As teachers, we have seen the impact that Rich has had on our young people. He always allowed God to work and to speak through his music. Some of our kids are testimonies to that fact. I know that I have lost a brother, but oh where he is today!! Our loss is surely Heaven's gain! Our prayers are with you and Rich's family in this time of loss. Now, we must ask God to heal Mitch McVicker, if He sees fit, and in HIS own time.

We will miss Rich very much, but we do applaud the life he lived and we rejoice in the fact that he is at the feet of Jesus! What

a place to be!!

With our love,
Forrest Quattlebaum
Hoover High School
Birmingham, AL.

If it weren't for Rich's songs, my husband would never have listened to Christian music. We thank God for Rich's gifts and how well he shared them with others. We're dismayed that we'll never again see him in concert but are joyful that he has found his home.

Wendy Lee

I was in shock when I heard the news about Rich. I know he is in a better place, but he will be so missed. I have had a christian homepage on the net and a lot of my pages have his music on them. I am always getting email about how wonderful his tunes are. Please let his family know they are in our prayers, and thank them for allowing us the beauty of having this angel with us. He will always live on in us through his music.

Blessings
Debra

To the family of Rich Mullins,

I'm sorry to hear about the loss of a loved one. I prayed and mourned for Rich Mullins. I also said in my prayer that even though he died I'm still one of his fans. I like his CD The Songs. I know there's a concert in heaven every day and Rich is probably leading the concert. I'll keep his whole family in my prayers. Rich Mullin was a great singer. Why was it his time to

go to heaven? Maybe it's a sign that Jesus is coming back to get all his children and take them to heaven.

Love,
Emily Rhodes
North Carolina

Please accept our deepest sympathies for your loss of a wonderful Christian man. Rich touched all of our lives in many ways and his music will live on for years and years to come. He was once in our church to perform a concert and my husband was able to help with the security and he came away with a deep sense of Rich's love for God. What a blessing Rich was to so many. May God comfort you and hold you at this time of loss.

Vicki Webb

As chaplain at Eastern Nazarene College, I had several opportunities to talk with Rich. I fondly remember the numerous times he led us in worship in his concerts, to be followed by the preaching of Brennan Manning. The two of them allowed us to see the texture of grace God was weaving in their lives. For the last four years we have used his music as the prelude for our chapel services, and Step by Step is our theme chorus for this year. Rich's integrity, reflected in his music, presented a relationship with Christ which was real, honest, and filled with grace. We will miss him.

Grace and peace,
Mike Schutz
Chaplain
Eastern Nazarene College

To the family of Rich Mullins, Although we can no longer enjoy the immediate joys of having Rich around, his music and ministries will live on forever through the Grace of God. Rich remembered the world as best as he could and now its our turn to remember him "As Best as we Remember Him." You are in our prayers.

God Bless.

Phillip Lorenzon

Blacksburg, VA

I offer my heartfelt sorrow at hearing of the loss of Rich Mullins. I am saddened by his going away from earth but gladdened to know that he is with our Lord. I saw Rich perform for the first time this summer at Cornerstone Festival. he was everywhere helping other artists to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior. From his helping out Caedmon's Call when most of the band was unable to attend due to their commitment at home and feeling God's call to be with their families, Rich stepped in and played a few songs and made a great impression upon me. He helped out others while there and the night he played the mainstage, he played the late part of the show and then went to perform the midnight portion of the Coffeehouse show doing the Canticle of the Plain. I chose not to go, now i regret that decision. I am a youth minister in South carolina, and although I never sat down and talked with Rich he deeply has affected my ministry through the use of his many songs praising God. He will continue to live on in Christ through his wonderful use of song in our God's service. I will miss him and I just want others to know that you can make a difference if you stand for Christ like Rich.

GEORGE BURLEY

I'd like to express my sympathy at the loss of a wonderful man. His music is what brought me to the Church, culminating in my conversion to Catholicism. "Creed" is a powerful song, something that has great meaning in my life, and every time I hear Rich sing

it, my heart fills with joy and peace. May God grant you, his family, His peace; may He comfort you with the knowledge that you will meet again.

God bless you.

Kim O'Connor

Rich will be missed, but will always be apart of so many lives. He lives on in all of us. God gave him such a blessed life. My thoughts and prayers go to his mother and his friends. Through God and his gift we will always have a piece of the kingdom until we are united again.

Tina Emerick

I never knew that I could feel as if a piece of my heart was taken away with the death of a man that I have never met, but the heartache that I feel now is unbearable. Rich was such a blessing to so many lives, including mine. I always felt that God was speaking to me through Rich's songs. And although I never had the privilege of meeting him, my heart feels as if it is breaking into a million pieces. I know however that we will all "carry on" and Rich's life has taught me so much about living for God. He was truly a "good and faithful servant" and I miss him already. I also pray through all my tears that God will spare Mitch. I saw him perform at the last concert that I was privileged to attend and it was so evident that, like Rich, God is working through him. Please get well soon Mitch. Finally, here is a poem that I wrote this morning about my feelings...

I don't know why my heart is breaking
I never met him face to face
Yet he spoke to me through the words he sang
Piercing me with God's sweet grace

So talented, so young, so full of life,
God spoke to me through him
The tears have been flowing since I heard
But how happy he must be in Heaven

I loved him, though I did not know him,
He challenged me with every song
He gave me the confidence to stand
And to proclaim my love for Him

For convincing me to "seek Him in the morning"
And to praise Him for the "Awesome God" He is
To "let mercy lead" my life
To hold on to the One that is true

I praise you God for him and his life
And I pray that someday I will
Be able to spread Your word like he did
To be a "good and faithful servant"

Thank you for all the memories, Rich
You will be greatly missed,
But you are in the place where "mercy leads"
And one day I'll meet you there, face to face.

I am praying for everyone who was touched by Rich and his awesome
ministry...

Cherie Peterson

Rich was a real person. I remember when we saw him in concert in
Orlando this past April how he just seemed so approachable. He
shunned the star's persona and embraced one of a man who was just
as ordinary as could be.

His life, music, and death has impacted our generation in the same
way as Keith Green's did. Rich Mullins is the Keith Green of the
90's and his legacy will be remembered for years to come.

John Boghos
Orlando, FL

.. I found out this morning at work that Rich has gone home. I never met him, never saw him in concert but yet am dumbstruck with a sense of loss. I am shocked.

But I have one lingering thought: Think of the music in heaven this weekend. Truly, our Lord is having one of the best concerts he has had. I will feel this loss continually, as each CD is played... and as Doubly Good to You is sung on my wedding day next month. But I rejoice in his returning home and in the inspiration and example Rich has been (and will continue to be) in my life. Thank you, Lord.

Please give Rich's family my love. Know that they will be in my prayers through this time. Please express my love for the folks involved with his work on the Navajo reservation. I will be praying that what has been started will not be forgotten.

In Him,
Kelley Oliver

I had the great privilege to tour with Rich as a bass player on the 1988 Winds of Heaven tour. Rich's life and art had a profound impact on me. He is one of the very few that I have met that could merge his art and his spirituality in a natural and comfortable way. Rich could care less if he sold records or received acclaim -- he made his art because he HAD to. There was just too much in him to keep inside.

I last spoke with Rich in 1993 when he and Beaker were here in town (Ft. Wayne, IN). He recently returned to town on this tour, but my work schedule made it difficult to even stop in and say hi.

I planned to catch him "next time."

Life is short folks -- DON'T take your relationships for granted.

To Rich: Goodbye, my friend. You touched me for life, and you got to find out the big answers before the rest of us. I know that you approached your moment of death with the same sense of adventure that you approached each moment of life, and I'm sure you are having a great time! But you will be missed down here. See you when it's my turn.

Andy

As I write this I am listening to Creed, which I think was his life long anthem. I miss him so much, although I never met him. Through my tears I am strengthened by his powerful witness and even more powerful lyrics. The world has lost a great poet, musician, and person. His legacy will not soon be forgotten. We love you Rich!

David Sparks

Rich was a much needed fresh wind to the CCM scene.

The first time I saw Rich was at the Christian Artists Seminar in Estes Park Co. I was there working with Compassion Canada. Rich was hardly into his set when someone called out for him to sing the song "Our God is a Awesome God", the audience clapped its approval for the request. Rich was trying to get into a another song at the time, he looked up from his dulcimer, smiled and said, "lets get this over with now" and played the request then and even now he did not seem like a artist stuck on his work but rather driven by God to teach us what he was leaning about God.

The music of Rich was not just for us it was for God. The part of the music that was for us was to teach us how to live out the

values we saw in his life.

I only got to visit and work with Rich a few times and in that few times he touched my life deeply, I will miss his music, his voice for the poor in spirit who like him are trying to give expression to their Christian life.

Paul Sharrow

To the Mullins family,

I do not know how to express in words what Rich and his music meant to me. We roomed together one summer in Cincinnati. I went to your house in Richmond and he came to mine in Wilmington. Of the hand full of memories I carry with me today, Rich has a part in them. Patched up jeans, a ready laugh, a song sung to break your heart and change your life. Parking lot attendants, the no soap phase, after all these years and faces he still knew me. Seminary girls, songs in the practice room, living in the projects. If there can be any comfort at this time please know his life, his work and his music will run down the years and decades touching others for Christ. And when we join him in heaven and God enjoins all to stand who are there by Rich's hand, certainly a sea of souls will roll. My life and the lives of thousands and thousands are better, richer and nobler from knowing and being touched by him. We will pray for you.

Rich Griffith
Myrtle Beach, SC

My heart struggles between the sorrow of loss and the joy of knowing that a brother in Christ I never knew is home with our Father. His music has gone beyond just ministry in my own life and reached into the hearts of my family. His music was a

powerful instrument in the opening of their hearts to the love of Christ. How wonderfully the Spirit of God worked through Rich's music. It began with a three-year-old insisting on listening to it in the car because he thought Awesome Dog was about his dog, yet through that his dad, my brother began to hear and respond to the love of God. I am so grateful for his commitment to serve God with his music.

Paul McCullough

I was saddened and shocked to hear of the passing of Rich. Though I never met him, or saw him in concert, his ministry has meant so much to my life. I know that at this very moment Rich is basking in the glory of his savior. I have no doubt that even with his passing, the music your son made will continue to minister to me and to many others. My prayers are with you. Praise God, Rich is finally home.

In Christ,
Mike Adams
Mustang, OK

i am truly amazed at the outpouring of love, sorrow, but most especially joy on the tribute page for rich mullins. i am a part-time dj in a college radio station, and used many of the comments here during a tribute hour this morning. i am also deeply saddened by the blow to christian music that rich's death brings, but joyful that he has made it home from the land of his sojourn, and is no longer a stranger. i am not prone to tears at any time, but am moved by the heartfelt messages posted for rich, his family, and the extended family that is constructed of his friends and fans, although he would not like to call them fans. a legacy is left behind in music. thank God for the technology we have to record and listen to the singer, even after his passing. thank you for taking the time and giving the effort to allow the nation to express it's sorrow, sympathy, and celebration at the passing

of the singer.

tj reeves

I have been listening to his music since I was about 10. I grew up with it. I was able to attend a two day conference that Rich gave in Holland, MI. My best friend and I ran into him in a hallway in the church and got to spend a little while talking to him. It was a few hours later, we were coming back after dinner, as we passed Rich heading out of the church. As he passed he called out, " Sara and Sara, right?", which happens to be the names of me and my best friend. We were shocked because he remembered our names! It meant so much to us teenage girls that we will never forget it. Rich Mullins let God speak through him in so many ways.

We went just a few years ago to the Brother's Keeper tour and at the end of the concert he started us singing a hymn, can't remember which one. Every one started singing, it was the most beautiful thing I have ever heard. He walked off stage, then came back and had us sing it again. God was surely there with us that night, you could just feel Him surrounding you. It brought tears to the eyes of almost everyone in the audience. Rich Mullins has done some of the best concerts that I have ever seen because he was so personable.

Rich will be missed greatly here, but I know that God is so very happy to have him home.

Sara Fisher

What can I say, Rich Mullins was a true prophet of God. Every time I listened to his music, I found something new and inspiring. Like Keith Green, he will be missed dearly by the world as a brother in Christ. Be we must cherish the knowledge that he is

playing music for the Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ.

Rich is home now, may we all go on with all the wonderful memories we have of him as a friend, musician, counselor and above all, brother in Christ.

In Christ,
Craig Carlen

I had the pleasure to host Rich and his band for dinner this past June. I am a pastor's wife at a large church where he played a concert. I was very nervous to meet him, not only because I am a major fan, but because I was afraid I would discover he didn't live up to his lyrics. I was even more impressed with him after our meeting! His humility was overwhelming. What impressed me the most was the way he disciplined the young members of his band. He was teaching them how to live a hectic lifestyle on the road and keep Jesus at the focal point. (After dinner he and his band went back to their hotel and spent time in prayer before the concert.) I know God has already told him "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

To Mitch: we are praying God's healing upon you.

M. Queen

This past Friday I sat at a campfire at a Christian women's retreat in Lexington, KY singing "Awesome God." Little did I know that Rich had died that night. That song has touched my heart so many times throughout my life. I met Rich several years ago when he returned to my church, Erlanger United Methodist in Kentucky, for our Centennial Celebration. He sang one of the songs he wrote for Amy Grant. He was invited because he had served as our youth director years before. I remember him as a very kind person who didn't care at all that a very young girl just wanted to meet him. It is sad that he is gone but he is truly home now. God bless

him. He brought so many to the Lord. I pray for his family and for the young man that was with him.

JA Brown

Rich's music always has ministered to me, we never met, YET, but I'm sure we will! I feel like I've lost a friend; as a country boy who now ministers in the heart of the city. Rich would minister to me with music that spoke to my heart and spirit, His midwestern, rural rooted, praise and priority-check-music gives me the renewal my soul needs and a trip to the country my heart desires where I can see and relax in the places his music takes me to.

Thanks Rich and to his family - We will keep you in our prayers! Your grief is shared by all of us in the body!

MQ Jensen

Rich's music taught me about the incarnation and helped me to see the truth of the Catholic Church before I was received in. God has called him to the heavenly liturgy now. Rest in peace, Rich. And pray for us left here behind that we would learn to love each other in peace and to love everyone you're with now.

In Rich's death is a call from God to me; a call to value each day, each relationship, each person I meet... The stuff of this earth and the stuff of my own world can never hold me so much any more...

Marie Hansen
Steubenville, OH

I am so sorry to here of the loss of such a great man of God. As we all know He is in a better place. I will continue to pray for mitch that he will be made totally whole. My prayers ar with you and All the families involved and the many people whose hearts are grieving over this loss. God Bless and be with you all during this time. We find our comfort in HIM!!

Tamrah

Rich stands before an Awesome God and now is tasting the glory that he so wonderfully sung of. My family, friends and church all have heavy hearts for our loss and the loss to Rich's family, but I know heaven is even more excited to have him home to sing there. He will now have more inspiration to write from than he ever could have here. Peace is with him and love abounds. I know that Christ greeted him and they both smiled and cried... I am only sorry that my young daughter will not have any of Rich's music to look forward to as I have for so many years. Since seeing Rich in concert a dozen times (first in 1985), I have praised God through his words and songs. Thank you to he and his family. Our prayers and sympathies are with his family. Yet for the Christian, death is no victor for we trust Him who has overcome its sting. Rejoice!

F. Knox

I felt the same sort of shock when hearing about Rich's death as when I heard about Princess Diana. However, I felt comfort in knowing that Rich loved the Lord and lived a life that showed his love for his God!! When Diana died, my 8 year old son asked if she had been a Christian, now I don't claim to be God and do not know what was in her heart, but the way in which you live says a lot of what you believe, and I feel that Rich led a life that SHOWED what he believed and what was important to him. He will be greatly missed by my family and our prayers are with his family as well as with Mitch and his family. God bless you all during this

time of grief.

Jim Woitt

Rich was the greatest musical artist the world has ever known. His music is truly a living legacy and will continue to witness to people in years to come. The words to his songs give me chills as I listen to them- they are obviously God-inspired. May Beaker and his other friends continue his wonderful witness through music. We will miss his beautiful smile but we know where he is now- right at home. My little girl will grow up listening to Rich's music. I know she will be touched by it just as we all were and will continue to be. Rich was "a good and perfect gift from above" (James 1:17) to us all.

C. Decker

At his last concert in Philadelphia (and probably at other concerts), Rich told this story about, of all things, those Irish wool sweaters that are decorated with intricate stitched patterns. He explained that the sweaters were created centuries ago when the Irish took to the sea for food. The wives of the sailors would knit these for their husbands, praying over each stitch for their safety on the seas. The purpose of these sweaters was not so much for warmth as it was for identifying the remains of the sailors who would inevitably wash up on shore after their ship went down. The Irish were not good seafarers for quite a while and would more often than not sink or crash rather than return home.. The sea and its inhabitants would mar the bodies of the sailors beyond recognition but could not eat the wool. The sweater would often be the only form of identification the wives would use when they went to the shore to claim the bodies. One of these days, after we have spent our lives tossed in a sea that beats and ravages us to the point where we are no longer identifiable, our bodies will wash up on shore. And Christ, who knit for each of us a sweater,

praying over each stitch, will come down to the rocks and see His pattern on each of us and say "That one's mine." Then He will kneel down, take us in His arms, and carry us Home.

And Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and he that liveth and believeth in me shall never die." --John 11:25-26

In Christ,
John Inverso

What a joyous reunion it must have been!! My heart grieves for those of us who are left behind. I never knew I could miss someone so much who I haven't yet met. Will Rich ever know that he was like a best friend to me? My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Good night, Rich!! And thank-you!!

Sherry Reiser

Lines Written on the Death of Rich Mullins
By C. D. Fincher (9/20/97)

Words take me, dear friend.
These tears are for you
That you are Richer more
Than you were ever Rich on earth.

Who thought words could shine glory?
Who thought music?
But my heart never sang a finer word
Than when your words were on my tongue.

Gratitude's a simple line
When it comes to such a mystery,
How I could find you such a friend,
Though our earthy exchange was but moments.

Yet glory peels away mortality
And we touch each other's hands;
Ragamuffins joint together
By nails and a thorny halo.

I hope I may weep for my home, as you,
Which is closer than I know
When all the mountains I love are gone
My heart won't break in good-byes.

But Somewhere, beyond my dreams
My mansion will be pitched by yours
We'll sing along eternally
Knowing that Jesus brought us home.

Farewell, my friend, for now
I'll see you at the Gate
Until then, I thank you, my hero,
For in Him you have truly won.

Delivered with sorrow and joy, this pair,
I only regret that you beat me There!

During my life I have had many lonely times. Rich's music has brought me out of that and helped me realize that God is always there and loves me! I'm sorry that he is gone. But in a way, it's a happy time. Rich is now in heaven, doing what he likes to do best, singing with for the Lord. Rich - Thank You!

Randy

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

We express our very deepest condolences to you and your family.

You raised such a very fine and wonderful son. He meant so much to our family even though we never knew him personally. He was definitely used by God to make people think and to make them appreciate more the incredible wonder of God and his creation. Rich was so incredibly gifted. We loved him so much. We are so extremely sad and feel such a huge loss. But we know it is nothing compared to the loss you must feel. We are praying for God's comfort and peace for you during this time.

With our sincerest sympathy and shared grief,
Chris and Melanie Castleberry

Dear Mullins Family,

My name is Kyle Brock. I am sending my condolences and my congratulations. Rich's death is a tragedy and I am so, so sorry that you must go through such a horrid time; and yet the fact that Rich is returning to our awesome God. I am listening to one of Rich's many wonderful songs that touch the lives of many people. This particular song seems to fit what has happened--some of the touching lyrics or the meanings that are put forth in his songs what this song is trying to say is that when you fall, our savior will pull us through and he will help us get through what ever wall that stands in our way.

I am very sorry about your beloved family member. I went to CIY this summer and I was blessed by the joy and the power that was set forth by his concert. Rich is my favorite christian singer and I will send my prayers to you all. And stay strong in God because though you may have lost someone who is very important to you, you can know that he is in a better place.

with love,
Kyle
May God bless you.

I saw Rich last in Naperville, IL on August 9 of this year. I gave him a hug before the show and then saw him again after the concert. I asked him to promise to rest in God's love that night and get better because he mentioned he wasn't feeling well. I'm glad I got to meet him then -- in a way it makes me feel a little less grieved.

I prayed for him from then on, and now I pray for you. It is no stretch of the imagination to see Rich already fitting in beautifully in our Father's house. That speaks joy to us who were fortunate enough to know him through his music and the example of his life. Even so, the labor of deep grief over his absence from this world will not pass without great pain in the hearts of those who were touched by his love for God, his humility, his honesty, and his wondrous way with words and instruments.

I pray you will know with great assurance that the Jesus who Rich was so committed to intensely shares your grief. There are many broken-hearted ragamuffins thinking of you.

In Christ,
Gina Blanchette
Manteno, IL

Maybe it was time for Keith Green to take a break from leading God's worship.. so now Rich has taken over.. singing his praise to the Lord!
Darrell Combs

I pray that God is giving you the strength and courage to make it through this terrible time. God's plan does not always make sense to us, but I trust that Rich's death has a mighty purpose in God's eyes. It was at one of his concerts that I first experienced the power and excitement of the Holy Spirit. I feel that night was the start of my acceptance of Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior.

My life has been deeply touched by Rich's life and music, and I hope that many more lives will continue to be changed by his ministry. My prayers are with you.

Erik Parmenter,
Milford, Illinois

Our love to his family and friends... Some people leave behind no legacy or joy - Rich was someone who left behind plenty of both. I remember singing "If I Stand" with some Hungarian Christians on a recent missions trip and "Awesome God" with some Ukrainians in Eastern Europe last year. There was so much joy to sing of brought forth by the songs, and we thank God for Rich's legacy of music. My family also first began sponsoring a child in Ethiopia following a concert at which Rich spoke passionately of Compassion International's ministry. After four years, we have a wonderful relationship with this child. That relationship is a testimony to Rich's desire to mean more to this world than just as an entertainer. His life illustrated the love of Christ in a world so much in need of it. I will miss him and his songs, but we are joined together for eternity with Jesus. Rich is now being held by the Lord...

J Escrow

Hello-

I would like to express my sympathy on the tragic death of Rich Mullins. I did not know him personally, I feel as though I have lost a friend. What I knew of Rich, I knew through his wonderful music & through a mutual friend who was a member of the Ragamuffin band.

After listening to his music & seeing him in concert many times over the last decade, I got to meet him in early Aug at a concert in Waterloo, IA. Sitting in the front row, mere feet from him,

watching his expression as he sang was wonderful. The glory of God lit up his face! Seeing the smile as he watched my roommate as she signed the lyrics to his songs. He was a very caring man. I can only hope that someday I can have the kind of relationship with God that Rich did. I had been spending years blaming God for my life. That night in Aug, listening to Rich talk about how he viewed God, I realized that I have nothing to blame God for. I am grieving over his death & shocked at the suddenness of it, but I have began to realize that the best tribute I can leave to Rich's memory is to fulfill what he told me that night. "Be God's"... two simple words from a man who didn't know me, but could sense my turmoil. In life & in death, Rich has taught me a great lesson. I can't blame God for my being in a wheelchair, I can only give myself to Him & use my infirmities to reach others & glorify Him in all I do & say.

I pray that you can find comfort in the fact that Rich, a man who loved God so deeply & who projected that love to other through his ministry, is now in the arms of the Savior & is at peace... no longer in pain or suffering from the depression he said over whelmed him at times.

Rich... you will be greatly missed. Your message & your life have touched many people. I pray that as you look down on us from heaven that you are finally able to see the impact you had on this world. Until I cross the Jordan to God's loving embrace.

In Christ,
Wendy Nelson

As Rich himself sang in 'Sing Your Praise to The Lord', "Life goes on and so must the song", we, his fans will miss him dearly. But we must also make sure that the legacy he left us in his songs goes on and is passed down to those friends and family of ours who will never see him walk barefoot onto a stage and pour out his heart as he let us share in his worship sessions, more commonly referred to as 'concerts'. I even purchases a hammered dulcimer

after being inspired by the wonderful music he made with it. Now, I vow to learn to play some of Rich's songs and try to carry on the Message. I will miss him greatly, and I pray that Mitch makes a full recovery and can pick up where Rich left off.

I thank God for the way these men have touched so many and will pray for both their families and friends. Heaven is no longer waiting for Rich...

Julie Norris

As a radio station we have been blessed to be able to share his music daily with our listeners! He truly was the poet for the common man. His honesty and insight will be missed. We are thankful that his music will continue to inspire those who listen!

Blessings,
The Staff Of K-LOVE Radio

Requiem R

He stood alone,
By the sea,
In the plains,
On the peak,
And saw God.

He watched the waves,
Counted the stars,
Read the faces,
Felt the needs,
And thought of God.

In his bold heart,
He heard the song,
Captured its tune,

Rehearsed it for us,
And spoke of God.

Now he stands,
In glorious white.
He dances with angels,
Converses with Paul,
And communes with God.

Vanessa Howard

Rich Mullins was an early inspiration for me to write and play my own music... I knew him from local church concerts and camps. My husband attended college with Beaker... we always went to see him when he was in the area. I remember when I was a Freshman at Bible college, my sister and I went to see him at a local high school gym. After the concert, the band let us help load their equipment, then we all went to a local church for pizza with some youth groups. Rich was always available and approachable. He was kind and always had a smile for everyone. He will be greatly missed.

Brady

Rich, I know you said that, "... it won't break my heart to say goodbye," but you sure broke our hearts when you did. Even though you're gone, I'm still learning from your Christ-likeness. I have a greater appreciation for the fact that this world is not MY home, either. So until I get home too, THANKS FOR YOUR EXAMPLE.

Joe

I wish to all those who loved Rich a comfort and peace in this

time of sorrow. Rich was a great man, never drawing attention to himself in order to show himself off. Everything he did was to God's glory, and not to his own. Rich was a great musician. He had talent that many of us can only dream about. I truly wish I had gotten the chance to meet this wonderful man and strong Christian. Nothing I can say can tell how my heart feels now. The Christian community has lost a strong leader and a man we took for granted though we had no right to do so. But in the minds and hearts of thousands of people, the words and music of Rich Mullins will play and he will never be forgotten.

Love to his family in light of this tragedy. I am truly sorry.

Matthias Shapiro

I never knew Rich Mullins, but he was one of those people who seemed like a friend. Unlike many of the other Christian musicians, he seemed reachable; you looked at him and you thought, hey, there's a real friend!

Rich's music touched me deeply; his praise was always to God and God alone.

Rich's death was peculiar; God really did call him home, though we all wonder why. He will be missed, but we WILL see him again someday in paradise.

Cara-Joy Powell

I was at one of Rich's concerts recently and I was really touched at the way he connected with his audience in a very personal way. Our only comfort now is knowing that he is with Jesus who apparently couldn't stand to be without him any longer. God Bless You Rich and I'll see you soon!

R. Mowery

I am so sorry for your loss. Rich's music has been such an inspiration to me, in good times and in bad. His ability to share his faith through his music, was truly a God given talent. He will be greatly missed.

I was first introduced to Rich's music a little over a year ago. My friend Steve and several other friends have been real fans of Rich's over the years. His music had and still has the ability to reach out to all people. Over the past year, I personally have gone through some really bad times, in fact, as much as I hate to admit it, I was drifting away from God. But somehow, every time I listened to Rich's music, I realized that God was there for me too, and that I wasn't as alone as I thought that I was. The words to his songs, were able to touch my heart in such a strong way, that he was able to bring me back and accept God.

Rich is home now, and as wonderful as that is for him, nothing can take away from the pain of losing him. Remember that God also knows what this kind of pain feels like, for he has to see his Son go through difficult times and eventually be crucified. Even though that was part of the plan, it is never easy. Keep the faith and know that God is there waiting to help you.

Take care and remember how much Rich has been able to touch so many lives.

In Christ,
Rebekah Seng

Rich Mullins was truly an inspiration to me and many others. He lived a life that any Christian should be proud of. As a musician myself, I looked up to him for his musical talent and his lyrical inspirations. He has blessed me and many others and will continue to do so with his music and the life he lived.

Jon Blundell

<\\>< Psalms 40:1-3

Your journey complete. Yet, your legacy and inspiration live on. We will always cherish your humble humanity and admire your great artistry. While we are saddened that we no longer will hear your distinctive voice and gifted lyrics or talented musicianship, we will praise God at His handiwork He made in you and how you used it to His glory. Thanks for leaving your work behind for us to remember you and draw us closer to God until we as well cross the Jordan in out Chariot of Fire.

Kemuel E. Travis
Cherryville, NC

I just heard about Rich's death on Monday. I feel very out of the loop. He loved the Lord in a way that I cannot understand, but a way that was real and that attracted others to his Heavenly Father. My wife and I are just in shock as our favorite musician, Christian or secular, is no longer with us. The grief is so unlike having Mother Theresa die. I feel as if I know Rich. It is not mere sentiment to say that he is in Heaven praising his Father.

JR

Rich Mullins music has helped my faith be rekindled, has helped me through some really hard times recently, and has given me new avenues of musical thought to explore. I praise God for the life of Rich Mullins.

Bob Coats

Mrs. Mullins:

I am a talk-radio producer in Detroit, Michigan. On August 15, 1997, I had the pleasure of spending time with your son, my good friend, Rich. I met him twelve years ago at a Christian Music Festival in Kentucky -- you know, the ones where you tent out for a week in the rain! Rich tented next to my friends and I -- and we didn't realize he was a performing artist until three days later when he took the stage -- until then, he was just a new friend. Mrs. Mullins, that is what he still is twelve years later -- a good friend.

We just had your son in our studio on August 15th, before his concert in Detroit, and our phone lines were just jammed with callers who had been so impacted by his servanthood. He taught all of us to look to Heaven and serve on Earth.

Today we spoke with some of other friends and opened the phone lines, and again they were overflowing, with not just "fans", but friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

I know what is like to loose a family member, my family has been hit by tragedy, too. But please take condolence in the fact that a very loving Father has called him home... and has not left you unnoticed. That same very loving Father is holding you and your family in his arms. Our prayers will be with you and yours for many years to come.

May the peace of Christ rule in your heart
-- Jennifer

Words cannot express how I feel about Rich's death. My prayers and sympathy go out to his family and to all whose lives he touched as he did mine. I remember being at Christ in Youth Conference in 1985 in Denver where Rich was the worship leader for 800 youth from all over the country. He was at the piano and said

he wanted to "try out" a little song he wrote on us. The hand written words on a transparency were projected on the screen. AWESOME GOD was used to lead us in worship. I have been a fan of Rich's ever since, having heard him in Denver, Milligan College, TN, Luftkin, TX, and Tulsa. I hardly ever buy tapes, but I own all of Rich's. Sorry about all those people I have left shaking their heads by saying, "Hey, listen to this Rich Mullins song!" There have been many converts along the way. See you in heaven Rich. Only then could you possibly know how much your songs and life have been an encouragement and inspiration to me. (There goes "Sometimes by Step" on KXOJ in Tulsa. Gotta go wipe some more tears.)

Mary
First Christian Church
Tulsa, OK

The Jordan is no longer waiting!!! Praise God for the time he let us have Rich Mullins. His music and life is one to look towards. He was the most Christ-like person I have ever known. We love him and adore him. We will always remember him. He touched our lives so fully and deeply, all the way to the core of our beings.

In Christ,
Juanice, Mark, Justin & Jared

Though I never met face to face with Rich, I do feel I met him heart to heart. I can truthfully say that no one has ever touched my heart through simple words and a song like he did. I can't begin to imagine it, but I can almost guarantee that the greatest concert in heaven has just taken place, as the Lord has decided to call Rich home. I truly believe that he was one of God's greatest gifts and messengers to this world. We loved him while he was here, and God, as he has always been, is loving him now. My heart and prayers go out to Rich's family. I know how incredibly sad this makes me, and I know it is even harder for his family and

closest friends. I too, hope he had the chance to go out like Elijah. God bless him.

Luanne

I had discovered that my marriage was in serious trouble; my spouse had made some terrible mistakes. I had thought we had an ideal marriage. I had thought to myself, "what a terrible loss, loss of innocence", and believed it would be forever gone. In these dark days (and they were dark), I believe the Lord spoke to me clearly and powerfully through Rich's song "Growing Young". It is a song about a loving, forgiving God that accepts us with loving arms when we fail. And somehow, in the process, restores the lost innocence. This song meant... and means... so much to me.

I don't know if all this makes sense to you like it does to me. It was four years ago, and the Lord has been good. Incredibly good. I believe that Rich was right, and my wife and I have been able to once again "grow young".

Please believe that God is good, and that Rich is in the presence of the One that meant the most to him. Through Rich, the Lord has really spoken to literally thousands of people.

I know.

I am one of them.

There's a wideness to God's mercy.....

JP

The staff of TCMR Communications, Inc. (The Church Music Report) joins thousands of other church and contemporary Christian

musicians in expressing our profound sadness in the loss of a great Christian musician. So many of our subscribers said they either changed their order of worship on Sunday or planned a special tribute to Rich this coming Sunday. Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends everywhere. We are poorer but Heaven is richer.

TCMR Staff

My heart is grieving at the passing of our brother. Rich's music spoke to a part of my heart that no other Christian artist could. In a world of watered-down lyrics and profit-driven compromise, Rich stood firm. We have lost the greatest poet in Christian music. I have seen souls saved as an effect of hearing Rich's songs. I myself have cried, laughed, and been challenged by his words. Though grief is overwhelming, I hope his family and friends find comfort in the true legacy Rich left behind. We will never know, this side of Heaven, how many lives were forever changed by his faithfulness. Rich has demonstrated to us what the Christian life is all about. I praise the God who was unmistakably Rich's "One Thing."

Though our hearts hurt, we know without a doubt that Rich is singing Awesome God at the bare feet of our LORD!

William H. Rayborn

Rich Mullins was one of the first artists that impacted my husband's life when he became a Christian shortly after we were married. Keith Green was one of the first that impacted me as a young Christian. We both feel sad and yet very grateful for Rich's ministry. One of the things I loved best about Rich was his humility. He seemed a "reluctant troubadour" and that made him that much more powerful to me as a messenger of Christ.

My heartfelt condolences to his Mom and sisters and brothers for

their loss. And to Rich: "Bless you, brother. You're finally home where your heart has longed to be."

In Christ,
Susan Conwell

We are so sorry to hear about Rich's death. Rich was one of those Christian artists whose music I knew and loved from the radio but didn't know who was singing. I realized today when I heard the radio playing his music who he was, and he will be deeply missed. I was moved by many of his songs. I praise God that he is now in heaven.

The Kramer Family

I had many opportunities to share with Rich over the last few years. I always found him to be honest, straight-forward and simple. What strikes me most is not that this is a great tragedy. He will be sorely missed, this is true, however he is in that place now that he so longed for when he was here. He has not only left us an archive of inspirational songs and thoughts, but he has left us with a challenge. I feel challenged by Rich's death to gather the pieces and carry on what he has begun. I think this is what he would have us do. As Ecclesiastes says so eloquently, there is a time for everything, including a time to weep... which we must now do to bring us to a healing from our great loss. However there is a time to rejoice in the fact that Rich is waiting with our Father in Heaven. Can you imagine God, sitting barefoot by a river and listening to Rich singing to him? I can, and it is both a joyful and a dear thought to me. Lets not let our time of weeping carry on so long that we forget about the time to rejoice, and the time to pick up what Rich has left us with and carry it to its completion. May God bless and make his face to shine upon you all as you work through your pain to His peace. I love you with the love of my Father and his precious Son Jesus

Christ.

Lisa Cantrell

Rich's Family,

I met Rich at CIY this summer in Colorado. He is an awesome man. He devoted his life to what God wanted him to do. My brother also met him this summer. Matt had always loved Rich's music. He had always dreamed of being on stage, at a concert, playing guitar, and singing with Rich. My families hearts and prayers reach out to you. We also are praying for Mitch. At least we there is a huge concert going on in heaven right now.

With much love,
The Compton Family

Rich's music has been special to me for the past decade. In junior high, I learned "Awesome God," (who didn't?). In high school, I drove my parents crazy with that "song about the pictures floating by, by, by" and Screen Door. My freshman year in college, a friend taught my roommate and I the words to a new song that went "Oh God, You are my God...", and we were overjoyed to hear it on the radio the next year. That year, we drove an hour and a half to Sweetwater, Texas (such a big town), to hear Rich and Co. in his last concert before he went back to school. We BARELY made it back in time for 11 PM curfew!! Four years later, I had the opportunity to see Rich and Mitch in concert for the last time, which was last year. He autographed a CD for me, and a shirt with the words from "Step by Step" for my now former roommate, which I sent to her. She and I took the opportunity at the time to reminisce the THOUSANDS of Rich Mullins memories which enriched our friendship which each other and The Lord.

Thank you Lord for these memories; and I just want to say that I envy Rich right now, because he is with You!!

Can't wait until I am there too!!!!

Sarah Vonheimburg

Rich was a true light in the darkness -- an example for all Christians. We'll never forget him.

The Winkers

The most difficult challenges and heartaches in my life were soothed and calmed by Rich Mullins' incredible music. I could always put one of his tapes in my tape player and depend on the effect it would have on my spirit. Rich's music strengthened my resolve to fight the good fight of faith many, many times. Thank you, Rich. And thank God for the gift of music He put in Rich Mullins. You will certainly be missed.

I Praise Jesus today that He put Rich Mullins in the path of my life. He came to Rock Lake Christian Assembly one summer over ten years ago and touched the lives of so many lost teenage souls. I know that it was God's plan for him to be one of the 'few good men' this Earth's had but also to leave behind his legacy of Love for the Lord. I will greatly anticipate seeing him again in Heaven. I will be praying for his Mother, what a blessing God gave you in this man! God can comfort the hearts of all of us and we will hold dearly to the memory and works of this Awesome man who serves an Awesome God!!

J Dartis

We have certainly lost a very talented musician and artist. Rich Mullins used his talents to praise God. His music was uplifting; reaching and touching people's lives. I don't think I have shed tears for the loss of someone I didn't know personally. However, the news of Rich's death affected me because his music affected me. His music and lyrics were "real" to me. I will always remember the one time I had the privilege of seeing him in concert. It was nothing short of great, and I left giving the glory to God. That was definitely an awesome experience. He will be missed greatly. Not only has the Christian music industry lost an artist, whom, in my opinion was underrated, but the world has certainly lost a good Christian man. However, because we know Christ, we can celebrate Rich's life, and know that one day, we will ALL be in heaven singing praises to our Heavenly Father together.

My prayers go out to his family and friends, and fellow fans all around the world. Rich, we will see you soon! Thank you, God, for giving us Rich Mullins.

Nightingale Ngo

"So if I stand let me stand on the promise
That You will pull me through
And if I can't let me fall on the grace
That first brought me to You
And if I sing let me sing for the joy
That has born in me these songs
And if I weep let it be as a man
Who is longing for his home" -- If I Stand

Awesome God, awesome man ,awesome life. My daughters and I feel so saddened at the loss of our favorite contemporary artist. We hoped to see him in concert soon. Now we'll wait to sing our praises unto The Lord with him, when we cross the Jordan.

Shanda Sinnott

"I am the resurrection and the Life, he who believes in Me, though he be dead, yet shall he live."

I guess the Lord wanted Rich to go sing for him, now.
Ed

It's just starting to sink in after two days. At first, I was so sure that the friend who told me had heard the news incorrectly. It couldn't be true! Why does life have to deal us these blows once in a while and shake us from the day-to-day routine? I have such conflicting emotions right now. If I focus on the fact that Rich is with the Father, I am so very overjoyed and almost awestruck. But as I'm trying to go on with my daily life, I find myself feeling so heavy and just sort of going through the motions. I imagine everyone out there is probably feeling that.

I have, however, felt such an urgency to commune with Jesus. I want so much to have my eyes on Him, and to give Him 100% of my heart. Every wonderful, creative, profound, beautiful aspect of the person of Rich Mullins was a reflection of his Creator. I want to be closer to this Creator! He is every wonderful thing we loved about Rich and more!

I'm also feeling really sad for Mitch. I keep praying that he'll be completely fine. I wonder if he knows about Rich. Mitch seems like such a neat, young "thinker" with so much to contribute to the Body. I hope we get to hear from him for years to come.

Melanie Castleberry

"When the sky is crossed with the tears
Of a thousand falling suns
As they crash into the sea
Can I be with You

Can I be with you" -- Be With You

We heard the news driving home from school/work this afternoon... so sorry to hear of the loss to the Christian "community" and we will all certainly miss Rich's work/ministry... but we know Rich himself is now rejoicing in the presence of the One he loved and served... and we praise God we will all see him again one day. Our sympathy to his family, and prayers for strength and encouragement in a troubled time...

The Webers

I keep hearing the words, "... it won't break my heart to say goodbye..."

So seldom does a person come along with the strength to be so honest. Often the things Rich said seemed so profound, but when you stopped to think about them they were really so very simple. We have tried to make knowing God and serving Him so complex that Rich's simple, devoted pursuit of His Lord was like a breath of fresh air. He knew this was only the land of his sojourn -- he didn't plan to stay here forever.

I will miss his honesty and his rare sense of humor. I know that now he is witnessing how awesome the God we serve really is. Death has not silenced Rich -- he sings louder and more joyfully and more clearly now than he ever could while he was confined to this human body. Now, he knows the name that God has for him on the precious white stone he longed to see. Thank you, Father, for the life Rich lived as a testament to You and an encouragement for all of us.

Angela Hawker

My husband and I heard about Rich's death over dinner at some friends house. We both stayed up late listening to Rich's songs and watching his 2x4 video. We saw Rich many times in concert in Dallas. Rich through the Lord touched our lives. He is one of the few that lived out his life what he sang about, and he was blessed. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. Especially to his Mom. I too lost a child and this has brought up all those old feelings. I am thankful that God is merciful and true, I now can look forward to not only seeing my daughter in heaven but also getting to know Rich on a personal basis in the Kingdom of Heaven. Rich will be missed greatly but Heaven is rejoicing. We love you Rich, Thank You for giving to the Lord.

Lisa Herschelman

When I found out about his death, I was absolutely shocked. It is another reminder of how life can be so unpredictable. That is why it is so important to really reach out to the world and tell them about Jesus. Rich was and still is a great example for all of us. It is a wonderful thing to know that we can find comfort in knowing that right now he is with God in heaven. He has truly been one of the greatest inspirations to all Christians and there is no doubt that the messages and preaching of his songs live on. Tom Eudaly

While I never met Rich Mullins in this life, I would like for his mother to know what an encouragement he was to my husband and me. His music and especially his lyrics constantly challenged us to walk closer with our God, something that few musicians can do effectively and consistently. His love for God was so clear and I've often used his lyrics for meditation on the love of God toward us.

We will miss him. We will pray for his family in this time of sorrow, and look forward to that day of joyful reunion.

Ellen Hinsch
San Diego, CA

Rich touched a world with the love of Christ, and now he lies in the arms of the King. With the biggest smile he ever donned on this earth, he is playing the Dulcimer for the one true Savior. We will always love Rich... Thank Jesus we were allowed the time we had together.

S. Toribio

I was discipled by Rich's music during college. His words pierced to my heart time and time again, challenging me to a deeper faith and trust in my Savior. I now find myself in full-time Christian ministry and God used Rich to a large extent to get me here. I praise God for Rich's life, his music, and his legacy. I will miss him so much.

Nathan Dunn

Dearest brother Rich,
I never met you. I saw you in concert only once. And yet you have touched my heart so deeply that I feel as though I have lost one of my closest, most precious friends. I can only pray... "may the angel of His presence keep your heart".

Earlier that Friday morning before Rich & Mitch's accident I too was involved in a fairly serious auto accident. Fortunately I wasn't hurt but I couldn't help but be moved when I heard of Rich's death. I remember waving goodbye to my 2 year old the evening before as I headed off to work, I can only thank the Lord

that it wasn't our last goodbye.

I was listening to a popular Christian radio program that morning just shortly before my own auto accident where Pastor Pat Hayden (I hope that's right) was giving a sermon on God's plan for us. "Before we were born," he said "God had a plan for us." "Within our genetic building blocks," Pat preached that God had special talents and gifts he wanted us to use for his purpose. Rich's music is proof of what God can do if we truly follow God's plan for us.

I've listen to Rich's songs on KLTY down here in Dallas/Fort Worth and I was always inspired by his words and music on my long ride between home and work. In his interviews he sounded so down to earth and humble. As a songwriter and artist myself, I've often felt that I've let the trappings of the world send me down misguided directions. Rich's death is a sad but hopeful reminder that, God has a set time for the just and unjust alike and it is up to us to make the most of it for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

My deepest condolences,
Jeff Leuthart

We should be celebrating the life of Rich, such a spiritual icon, and strength for many looking for a way home to Christ. Why is it so difficult to feel like celebrating? Such a gift his life was to all who knew him! After listening to his faith through his music for more than 25 years, and listening to him whenever I needed some "Advil for my soul" I can't imagine that I won't see him perform again here on earth. For all you helped us see and feel, Rich, we are deeply grateful... you always seemed to be seated in the Lord's palm, how wonderful that you can now enjoy HIS presence forever!

To all Rich's family, friends, and to his band we extend heartfelt sympathies!

God bless. ALRIGHTOKAHUNHUHAMEN!

Kathleen Jagger

As I sit and read this page, I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and gratitude for God's gift to us through Rich's music. I've been wondering why I have been crying -- I didn't know the man. But his music ministered to me when I came to the Lord a few years ago. For many of us there is a call in his music to go deeper, to pursue the Lord passionately. Rich is an example of a love for the Lord and for others that we all need to prayerfully, passionately pursue.

Thanks for the legacy, Rich. Thank you, Lord, for Rich. He plays for you now.

David Peirce

I saw Rich before World Youth Day in 1993 in Colorado. I purchased a hammer dulcimer soon after. I just saw Rich in concert in Green Bay not even a month ago. It was sincerely the best concert I have ever been to. We showed up 2 hours early to get a good seat. Rich and Mitch came out and played for us early. We were moved at how sincere and loving he really was. I spoke with him about my 3-month experience in Kenya and how I taught my 4th graders Step by Step and gave him a video tape of it. He listened intently, we talked for a little while, he was a genuine article. I, too, hope he will be remembered for more than Awesome God, but for ALL the incredible albums that came after that. Especially Never Picture Perfect, Liturgy, Legacy... He is the Lennon/McCartney of Christian music. His music will stand the test of time because of the inspiring lyrics and creative music. I pray his tribute to St. Francis will someday be recorded... when Mitch comes through all this. I have felt an emptiness in my heart, but I know that Rich is Home. Oh the Love of God

... Peace to you

... Nathan Vande Hey

Please express our love and prayers to the family.

I guess in an unexpected way, he really did go out like Elijah.
It's a joy to think of where he is now.

Praying,
The Steele's in Kentucky

Just to let you know that RICH'S song "AWESOME GOD" made me decide that it was time to become a Christian. The words touched me so much. What a great singer we have in him. Now he can sing for GOD all day and night. What a beautiful way to live eternally. Singing for GOD. What a Wonderful person that he was. and will always be

In His Love,
Denyse

In his life and in his death, Rich has touched me more than anyone I have not known personally. His songs have helped me through painful times, and I trust they will help me now through his death. My three-year old daughter adores his music as well. She used to listen to lullabies at night, but now requests "Rich" every night. I stay and sing a few songs for her, and then she asks me to put the music on "repeat" so it plays all night. Thank you God for giving us Rich and his music; he brought Your message to us and through it he comforted and inspired the souls here on earth. We look forward to hearing his new music when we're finally Home!
Wendy Leighton

Rich's music was of special significance to me, He was one of a few Christian artists I could honestly recommend to others both saved and unsaved! The body of Christ has lost one of it's finest!

It is interesting that with the loss of others, i.e., Princess Diana and Mother Theresa, Rich's death will probably not be viewed in this world's eyes as very significant, however a verse from Hebrews comes to my mind --" Of whom the world was not worthy..." Hebrews 11:38

Certainly, Rich was one of the above, therefore the world does not hold him any longer, our Father does.

Our thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort are with you all!

The Hansen Family

My husband and I looked forward to a new album from Rich Mullins every year. He has been a very large influence in our Christian walks. We are very saddened by the news of his death. I remember the one time we saw him perform in concert and look forward to the day we all meet in heaven and we are able to hear him play once more.

I first learned about Rich in 1982 when I was a freshman at Cincinnati Bible College. Amy Grant's "Age to Age" had just been released. As a backward freshman, I was in awe one morning to find myself playing Boggle with Rich on a friend's living room floor. I was spending the night and Rich had shown up sometime in the night looking for a place to sleep. I remember going out to eat pizza with him (he forgot to bring money!) and even watching "A Man Called Horse" on television at his house on W. 8th St. in Cincinnati. He was the most Christlike person I ever knew,

simple, profound. We've lost a true poet. I remember when I heard Amy Grant's version of Sing "Your Praise to the Lord" on "Age to Age". I was disappointed because they left out the "from the rising of the sun" part. I'm so glad he recorded it the way he wrote it. What a loss for us all! What a gain for Rich!

Marty Andry

I can't even put into words the incredible impact Rich's music had on my life. And the incredible loss I feel at his death. There is always a glorious hope and a certain sorrow when a saint passes: that they are in the presence of Jesus, but that they are no longer with us til the resurrection. My condolences and prayers go out to Rich's family and to Mitch and his family. As his fans, we didn't know him personally, but he shared his music with us and so he shared his faith and himself with us too. Rich will be greatly missed until we cross the Jordan to join him at Home.

Ben Lawrence

My friend is going to be in New York City this weekend and he'll be lighting a candle for Rich in Central Park.

I last saw him at Cornerstone three months ago... Even then his face seemed to say "tired." Surely he sighs with relief now that his race is done, his fight has been fought. Oh, the crown...

His music has ushered me through melancholy times and into exultant ones. It will be hard to sing "If I Stand" again without tears.

Patrick Lafferty

I loved him and I never knew him. His music filled my heart spilled forth out of my lips. His heart taught me about Christ; his words constantly challenged and delighted me. I can barely speak... his songs took me through the happy and the sad; he was the soundtrack to some of the most amazing moments of my life. His songs are a gift from God. We can thank Jesus for lending him to us for a time; we can rejoice that he has finally find rest, finally found the Home for which he no longer need long. He taught me much. I will miss him.

Jesus, please be with Mitch now, heal him, keep him whole. Grant him the healing he needs. May he continue to sing.

Jonathan Powell

I wanted you to know that I am praying for you and for Mitch and his family. Thank you for raising a son like Rich. His music has meant a lot to me in the five years I have been a Christian. I had the enormous pleasure of seeing him in concert twice -- most recently in August for my roommate's birthday. It was the fifth time she had seen him in concert, by the way!

His interaction with the audience was as inspiring as his songs and we have often talked about things he said since his concert. In keeping with who he was, my roommate, who is a youth pastor, pointed our high school kids toward God after announcing Rich's death. She challenged them as Rich would have to think about death and what in their lives could be more important than to spend eternity with Jesus.

I pray that you will know God's peace and mercy in the coming months as you grieve. I hope knowing how many thousands of us loved him will be of comfort to you.

God Bless You.

Kelley Schmidt

I'm very downhearted by the loss of this pilgrim. On this side of heaven it is a HUGE loss but Heaven is all the more richer! No wonder he went by the name Rich! He was rich in compassion, love, sincerity, kindness, all the fruits of the Spirit! I'll never forget upon seeing him in concert and thinking to myself...

"Ahhh... this is my kinda man!" cuz he wore no shoes! I always looked at that as a outward sign of humility. Didn't know him personally but his songs touched you in a personal way. He went right to the heart of any matter in which God showed him to sing about! I lost a dear friend just about a month ago. I know those two are up there singing their hearts out to the "Awesome God" which both lived to serve.

Mrs. Mullins, God gave him to you for this short period of time and I know you will soon be able to rejoice over that blessing!!!! For you WERE surely blessed!!!!!!

Dad, I ask that You wrap Your strong arms around this mother right now. Comfort her at this time of grief. Whisper to her the truth that she will see this child servant again in GLORY!!!!!! Hold her Jesus, as she shakes like a leaf, be her King of Glory, and her Prince of Peace.

Be with the rest of this family, Lord. Use even this event to further Your Kingdom as Rich would so have wanted it. Touch souls again and again as many gather to show their last respects.

AMEN!

Mrs. Mullins,

Many (including me) were saddened greatly by the loss of your son. I'm sure none more than you. I just want you to know that even though we never met, I admire you greatly for the mother you must

have been to Rich. I know that a child's greatest influence is his parents and I thank you for the example you were to Rich so in turn he could be an example to so many people around the world. He was a blessing to me, and I have learned so much through his life and through his death. Please believe that God is working all for the good of those who love Him. God is and will be working through these trying circumstances. The song that has ministered to me the most in the last 2 days is "Live Right". Through that song Rich taught us all to "Live like you'll die tomorrow. Die knowin' you'll live forever." I believe that these lyrics sum up his life. He lived this, and I know that because of it, anyone who follows in his footsteps will see him again. Please know that I am praying for you and your family. And thank you for giving the world such a wonderful example of God's love and of Christian living.

In Christ,
Stephanie Hall
Philippians 1:19 - 21
God Bless You!!!!

Just wanted Rich's family to know that we are praying for them.
Sincerely,
Howard, Linda, Sarah, Anna, Josh, & Anna Russ

God bless you and your family at this time. Your son made a mark on our society that will last for many generations ahead. He is definitely going to be missed in our hearts. He gave us the sights and views of how our Dear GOD wants us to live and worship. Now your son is rejoicing in the heavens with our Loving Father. He will now be looking at the stars like a candle in Central Park.

God Bless you and yours and our prayers will be with you.
Michael T. Blazek

I never personally met Rich, I never even attended one of his concerts. But from my friends who have done both I know that this was a man who did not understand the depth of his holiness. He was so focused on God he could not see that he was. The songs he wrote were not just fluff. There was nothing that came from his lips in order to please people. No words, no songs, no nothing. He seemed to despise the idea that he was famous. His desire was to glorify God, and anytime the focus got onto him he would gently guide the conversation to the proper place. Two years ago Rich came to my church (a year before I started attending) to talk with the youth. All the youth were in the room having fun waiting for him to come, and one of the adult sponsors waited at the door for him. When he came, he came in a pickup truck with a doghouse in the back (no, not one of those snazzy crates, but a dog house, slanted roof and all I imagine) and a dog to reside within the home. He walked up to the door and shook the sponsors hand saying, "Hi, I'm Rich Mullins, and I am supposed to come and talk with your youth tonight." The sponsor recalls thinking (Yeah, I know who you are. Hehehehehe) This was such an unassuming person, if he ever did assume anything it was that he was not famous. (Sorry, I tend to ramble) He touched our hearts so mightily because everything he sang came out of his heart and his wisdom.

We as those who are left behind, shocked, saddened, and changed by Rich need to spread God's love, and Rich's music. Keith Green died in 1982, and today his music is still changing lives. I am convinced that if he had lived a full life and his popularity had a chance to dwindle, his music would be remembered like all other late 70's early 80's music. By a very few people. But because of his death his music lives on. I believe that the same thing applies to Rich's music. Spread the wealth my friends.

"If I stand, Let me stand on the promise
that you will pull me through.
And if I can't, Let me fall on the grace
that first brought me to you.
If I sing, Let me sing for the joy
that has born in me these songs.

But If I weep, Let it be as a man
who is longing for his home." -- If I Stand

"You have been King of my glory, won't you be my Prince of Peace"
-- Hold Me Jesus

You truly weren't comfortable in this world though. There was something about you that yearned to be somewhere else. Your songs prayed that God would bring you back home. Away from the land of your sojourn. "No body tells you when you get born here, how much you'll come to love it, and how you'll never belong here. So I call you my country, but I'm lonely for my home." May God give your spirit to others, may your desires, which so closely parallel our Fathers, be passed on. May your death shake us from our complacency, from our comfortable homes, and remind us that we are all aliens and strangers, and "The angels beckon us from heavens open door, so we can't (mustn't) feel at home in this world anymore"

Timothy Putnam

I am so sorry and we all know that he's in a better place and that we will see him up in Heaven. I will be keeping his family in my prayers. God Bless!
Sarah

He left us a spirit of peace, not of grief. A man with that kind of connection with God should be celebrated for the fact that God let him leave Heaven to begin with. (And I'm saying this with a tearful heart.) Rich took requests and closed his concert by letting us pray "How Great Thou Art" - when we opened our eyes, he was gone. He has incredible humility
...Tasha

To the family of Rich Mullins,

My husband, brother and I saw Rich in concert almost two years ago in Columbus, OH. Although I had been a fan before, after attending the concert I paid even more attention to the words of his songs and they touched me in a very personal way. I will continue to enjoy and be uplifted by his music, but now with a sadness in my heart. I am very sorry about your loss and hope that you can in some way be comforted by knowing how very much Rich was able to touch others lives and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

A saddened fan

To the family of Rich Mullins,

"...The melodies have ended -- but the memories remain..."

I recently lost a younger brother suddenly - I know the pain is there. He was a musician also -- like your Rich. Hold tight to all the good times and peaceful thoughts. That is what helps the most. We only had a short time to enjoy the music -- however -- we are all RICHer for having your son/brother speak through his heart and voice into our ears and souls.

May God bless Rich and his family... and the injured friend.

J. Burn

Just a note to express my thanks for Rich and his ministry. I first saw Rich 6+ years ago in Knoxville, TN. He was playing at a small church and staying with some church members. During the concert he shared some of his struggles and joys of life. Rich (and the ragamuffin band) took the time after the concert to greet all 200 of us at a small table out on the front lawn. In summary,

Rich was the first musician (even today's Christian musicians) that seemed "real" to me. I have held a deep respect for Rich and will miss the anticipation of new creations from him. I hope the band will continue his music and develop the "works in progress". May the Lord bless his family and the Navajo children he supported.

T. Neubeck

I have recently received Jesus as Lord and Savior and am a musician just tapping the Christian music scene. My friend tells me Rich was a blessing. My prayers go out to his family and I look forward to being inspired by his music. He is with Jesus now -- nothing is better than that!

Kurt Walter

Ma'am,

While I did not know Rich personally, I can tell you honestly that the ministry that the Lord entrusted to him has been a tremendous blessing for my wife and myself. Once, in Arlington, TX, We went to a concert by Rich. While he was there, it was not a "concert" as such, but much more an intimate time of worship and praise to our Heavenly Father. It was there that at the close of the evening, we were all singing "Awesome God". I can close my eyes to this day and hear the entire auditorium singing in unison, "Our God is an awesome God, He reigns..."

Then, just as today, I opened my eyes and Rich was gone. He wanted no glory for himself, just to bring praise to the Father.

We are in the music ministry and greatly appreciate the simple truths we have gleaned from his ministry, and the common sense approach he had to the Christian Walk.

May God Truly minister to you the peace that passes all
understanding,
Sincerely,
Jeffrey and Angela Larson

I just found out about the passing of Rich Mullins. Just wanted
to say that I loved his music very much as it contained real
theology and that hearing of his passing from death to life has
hit me hard. My condolences to his family and friends... the CCM
world has lost one of the better artists...

Cheryl Dajko

I would like to send my condolences and prayers to the family of
Rich and Mitch and would like to say that Rich's music touched me
in a profound way. I live in East Texas and recently saw Rich and
the Ragamuffins play live. It was the most incredible experience
I think I've ever had. My heart breaks and I wonder why something
like this happens, but on the other hand I know that he is where he
wants to be, with his Father in Heaven. My prayers are with the
family of Rich and the rest of the band.

GOD BLESS,
Jason

And if I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his home
David W. Mize, Sr.

"Oh, I hear the song of a heart set free
That will not be kept down by the fury and sound
Of a world that is wasting away..."

In celebration of his life, and in trying to deal with his "death", I put in one of his albums as I was driving on a wonderful sunny cool day. And I heard the Maker of Noses... and when I got to these lines, singing so loud, I realized that the song of a heart set free... that is Rich's song now. Free from depression and hurts and struggles and sin. And I can't imagine how his voice sounds now!

But you know, the legacy he leaves challenges me to focus on the Lord entirely in my life, to surrender everything to Him. To love Him more and more, to love others and serve others more and more, whether I'm grieving or joyful, rich or poor. His life reminds me that a single poet who has battled depression can glorify God tremendously! My children (if I have any) will grow up listening to his music, and hopefully their children. So, he's still singing, He's still praising, and He may be singing some of the very same songs he sang on earth. I can't wait to sing with him in heaven. For now, I'll keep singing with him on earth, praising our God.

What a gift...
Grace brought you to God,
God brought you to us,
And the God of grace called you home.
We love you. We love God with you.
Your songs live on.

Joan

About 7 years ago, while going through a divorce, I discovered Rich's Music. It took a while to track down who "that guy is". As I could afford to, I would buy a CD or attend a concert here in Springfield. As a single mom I found his openness, humbleness, gentleness, yet at the same time courage and honor to come through in his sons. He was able to bring me, a semi-hardened surgical nurse, to tears with a song. He could soften my spirit to God's will and way for me in a few stanzas.

"Surrender don't come natural to me,
I'd rather fight you for something I don't really want
than take what you give that I need,"

Boy, that is me and, I think, a lot of us.

We loved him not just for his songs but for his legacy. He was compassionate to the poor and oppressed. He was humble before the Lord and other humans. He was willing to do the Lord's work over his own desires. I am also crying as I write this, as so many others have and are. As an environmentalist as well as a Christian I found his work to be full of wonder at God's creation as well as for the Creator of it all. I am ashamed that I have not lived such a life and am challenged. Rich really accomplished the work that God set out for him on this earth.

You know, as corny as it sounds, there was always the hope that some day I would meet Rich and get to know him as a person. That will now only happen when I get to heaven too. Then I will catch up on all that he has been doing since leaving here for his REAL home.

I know that his mom must be a very special person to have had a son like him. I hope she and any other family that there is will be comforted. All of us that knew the man through his music, and therefore knew much of his heart, cannot be experiencing even the remotest type of loss that you, his family, feel. I wish I could attend the funeral, but I understand the desire for privacy. His life touched many of us and will continue to touch more as time rolls ever onward. The joy I found and wanted to share with others, believers and not, when I discovered Rich's music is not gone.

I must also say, that as one of a lot of single women out there that have hopes of one day meeting a man like Rich to share their lives with, I suppose that some of us are crying for the death of hope. We must all remember that we are here for the Lord's Glory and to do his will and service. At the age of 40+ we all tend to

be a bit desperate!

Thank you for being there Rich, we will miss you. Congratulations on your new position, and your new home, I am looking forward to touring it with you someday. One thing I would love to know, were you at Messiah '76?? There was someone there with the same directness and fire in his songs, but I never knew his name.

C. Cowsert

i met Rich backstage before a concert in Cullman, AL. He broke the barriers of "traditional" gospel music for me and my family. He performed that night in jeans and a t-shirt and no shoes. When the concert began I heard several negative comments about his appearance... but after the concert, there were some of those people that actually apologized to him. I've never seen or experienced God's Spirit being poured out over a crowd like it did that night. It changed my whole spiritual life. He was, to me, the epitome of a Christian... doing what God had called him to do. I will miss him sorely. Once in love, always the fool...

Chris Burns

I have never been so effected by the death of an artist. Brennan Manning was a favorite author of Rich's and mine as well, so even though I didn't know him well personally, I shared part of his heart and theology.

His humility must have increased God's yearn to be with him in heaven. I know he was so disinterested in the whole Christian stardom thing... he just wanted to share Jesus with anyone who would listen.

I am motivated to get to it... life is short, and you never know when it is through.

God showed me in Colossians yesterday that we are to be as attached to this life as much as someone who is dead is. That hit me hard. All that matters is being with Him, now and after our life here.

Sad in Seattle
Jennifer Niebergall

When I heard on Saturday that Rich Mullins had died the night before, I cried. I spent the day listening to his music, wondering why his death affected me so much, since the closest I had ever come to knowing this man was seeing him in concert twice in Hawaii. He was such a powerful performer, but an even more gifted songwriter.

I remembered back to when I was pregnant with my first child, playing "Step by Step" every night on my speaker belt so my baby could enjoy this beautiful song of praise as much as I did. Now we sing "Where You Are" because my son likes to hear about "Daniel in the den of the lions".

We are so grateful that Rich Mullins blessed us with his music, and that he used his gift to honor the Lord. Bless you all, and know that there are many others weeping with you. But, we also have the joy of knowing that Rich is being held by Jesus, which is where he really wanted to be.

Love in Christ,
Theresa Irizarry

We share in the joy that God had imparted to Rich Mullins and imparted to us through Rich's songs. We will greatly miss him but, we praise God for his life and also praise Him because we know that Rich is finally with Jesus the Prince of Peace. He has finally crossed the Jordan but, we are thankful that God blessed

us through Rich's short pilgrimage here on earth. We know that Rich is rejoicing right now since "HIS music is already falling on Rich's ears."

Naive Wong

We'll see you soon, Rich! Keep praising until we get there!
Scott

To Mrs. Mullins and the family of Rich Mullins.

Greetings. I wish there was no need to write this but through God's will there is. I was very sorry to hear what happened to Rich. When I heard about the accident it struck me hard how much he had an effect on my life through his music. His way of holding his dream, of humbly following the ways he set for himself, his faith in God, all have been a great example for me. When I heard about the accident, I was thinking about the changes in my life because of him. The example he set in his music and in his actions caused me to review many of the things I do and see where I am not in line with the commands of God. His music helped to keep my faith up when I was feeling crushed to the ground. The words that come straight from his heart and soul, putting nothing but his entire self into each song added so much to his music. From what I knew of his life, he never lived anything fake. He was who he was, and as best he could as a human, followed the commandments of God.

My prayers go with you.
Chris Roberts

I just learned of Rich's death this morning. My wife read about it this morning in our local paper here on Long Island, NY. I was just listening to his CD "Songs" last night. He will be greatly

missed. As I listened to the CD again today, I saw in my mind's eye Rich standing in Heaven and Abraham was speaking with him. Abraham handed Rich some type of heavenly musical instrument and asked him to play "Our God is an Awesome God". As he played, all of Heaven began to worship the Lord with them. We do serve an "Awesome God" and Rich put into song the true heart of the body of Christ.

Ken McKeon

What an awesome God... Rich captured that fact so perfectly. That song was such an encouragement to me when I was in college and now years later the power can still be felt when our choir sings it as the ending to the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord. How awesome to know that Rich is with Him now.

I was moved almost to the point of tears at the news of Rich's death. I never met the man, but I feel such a loss at the news of his death. I've read through a lot of the messages posted here, and a lot of what has been said could have been said by me. Rich's music has had a great impact on me as I sought to grow in my Christian walk. I have always been challenged by his music. He has a certain depth to his songs that few other artists have matched. The world has lost a wonderfully talented person. I have considered Rich to be a hero of mine, and now to know that he is praising God in His presence is just an awesome thought. I have considered "Step by Step" to be a theme song of my life. God has truly led to me to attempt great things, and He has always led me step by step along the way. I still get chills when I hear that song, and now doubly so.

Rich, I'll miss your ministry more than anyone will ever know. The song by Ray Boltz "Thank You" comes to mind. I can imagine crowds of the saints in heaven gathering around Rich, thanking him for giving to the Lord through his music and lifestyle. I know

I'll be one of those people one day. I can't wait. Until then, may God bless everyone Rich has left behind. May his ministry be even stronger now than ever before."Oh God you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days."

BJ Rhine

My sister introduced me to Rich's music. I will be forever grateful that God so blessed us with his life. He has brought so much joy into my life with his songs of praise. I will remember every concert I ever attended. I pray for peace and healing for Rich's mother and his family. I know they will miss him greatly. I just lost my mother-in-law to leukemia in July and Rich's music helped me to remain focused, and to trying to go on with the plans God had for me. We have all been blessed. I pray that your sorrow is eased soon. I will also continue to pray for Mitch and his family. May God hold you close in your sorrow and deliver you from the pain.

Bless you
Gail Robinson

I am from Mexico, and I was shocked with the news about Rich. It is a loss for every one of us. He was a preacher, with every song. I'm sure HEAVEN's on PARTY now! God called him back. He knows what He's doing... and I am sure Rich is finally enjoying of all that he dreamed in his whole life!! BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD!! Pray for Rich's friend and family. Bless You.

Sincerely,
Claudia Gutierrez F.
Sonora, Mexico

I was at the Clay Crosse and Jacky V. concert in Bellingham, Washington when I heard the news about Rich Mullins death. This is sad day indeed because Rich was such a gifted Christian artist and will be missed. I wish I had more words to say except "Rich is now with the Heavenly Father". May his music continue to be an inspiration to other Christian artists and to his listeners. I wish it was any other way than this.

In my prayers,
Chris Ramsay

I'm an M.K. in Africa, and go to a Christian missionary school. Rich Mullins' songs were so popular at our school. At Prayer and Praise we sang "Our God is an Awesome God" almost every week. It's one of our favorites. And another of our favorites is "O God, You Are My God." Even just those two songs reflect such humility on Rich's part. He gave such devotion to God; it was incredible. It's devastating to hear about the loss, but I don't have a single doubt that he is where he wants to be most.

Sara

The first time I heard contemporary Christian music, it was "Awesome God". From the words, I did some soul-searching. I got saved, one year later. A few more years later, I met Rich at the Joshua's Bookstore in Mesquite, Texas. I've met several celebrities in my lifetime, but Rich was so different. He was so personable to everyone there. Listening to him speak from the bible, you could tell that this man loved the Lord and very much loved serving Him. I am so glad that I got to meet this man, and I look forward to meeting him in God's house so that I may thank him for all the lyrics in his songs. I pray that all his friends and relatives experience the comforting touch of God. To them I say, "You are not alone in your grief." God bless you all.

J. Capulin

To the family and friends of Rich Mullins

In my life, I would like to think of Rich as one of the greatest sparks in my faith. Rich had so many incredible talents, of which I think his ability to put everything in perspective, in a common man's terms was the one that touched me most. Often in times of struggle I would turn to the songs and stories of Rich. I am happy to know that Rich was such a strong Christian, and I believe that he was at peace with his eternal destiny. May we all look up to the example he provided for us, not that of a perfect man, but of a man who tried his hardest, gave it his all, in spite of the knowledge of always falling short.

God blessed us all with the presence and influence of Rich, and I will carry that with me for the rest of my life.

Chris Meirose

My husband and I heard the news as we were waking Sunday morning. We were deeply moved and very sad. I am inspired by Rich's love for God and ability to not be caught in the trappings of this world. The reality hit me as I realized how happy he must be to be with his Father... this isn't our home. Our home is with our Father and we should be focused on pleasing Him, living for Him and reaching others for Him. Thank you Rich for being an example of Christ to all of us. I know it must be true that he would want us to walk closely with God and to love Him with all of our hearts.
Michelle Herring

We are very saddened by Rich's death. It seems he had a firm grasp on who God was. He must have known him so personally, he

can be called A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART!!!

Kainan

We are very sad to hear of Rich's accident -- but we know that he is more joyful in heaven than he could have ever been on earth!

We will miss you, Rich!

Robert

What can we say? Rich's death has left a void that I know can never be filled in your heart. It is good that one can know with absolute certainty that he is with his Lord and Savior, Jesus. It doesn't erase the hurt left behind, though sometimes. On the most important issues Rich and I agreed. Our love for our God; our joy in His creation; love of family and children (one of my favorite songs of his is You Gotta Get Up, Christmas Song). His songs have touched both me and my wife deeply, and we will miss him. I mourn your loss, and please know that we, too, feel the pain.

We are praying for you and your family through this time. May God's glorious Peace touch and fill your heart.

You know, I think Rich is the lucky one. He is worshipping Jesus now face to face. We are left behind, and we mourn with you for all of us who are left behind.

Clark and Beth Peters

I am deeply saddened to hear of Rich's death. Although I do not consider myself a new Christian, I have only recently recommitted myself to my faith. I was just beginning to appreciate his music, and it touches me deeply. I will miss all of the music that was inside of him, waiting to be written, however, I will continue to explore the legacy of music he left behind. He had such a gift

for putting feelings into words, and making us better understand God's love for us. His music will always be a great comfort to me, and I know that he will surely be missed by many. Praise God that we can know that Rich is still making music and serving Christ.

Gary Peel

I interviewed him two weeks ago, and some of the things he said, in a sense, changed a mindset I've been carrying for several years. He was my favorite artists, and I too, like everyone, will miss this man I didn't know, dearly.

Lindy Warren

Thank you for your gift to the world. He touched my heart, my 4 year old son's heart and many of our friends. We love you.
Jana

I am very saddened to hear of Rich's death. I do thank God that he gave Rich such talent and zeal to help so many of us in our spiritual journey with God. I will be praying for his family as well as Mitch and his family. To Rich/Mitch's families, hang in there! The Lord will help you.

A Sincere Fan,
Alan Welch

My husband and I had the privilege of meeting Rich after one of his concerts about seven and a half years ago. We were very impressed with the way he didn't let his success go to his head and were moved by his down to earth ways. We only got to see him

twice but those were the two best concerts we ever attended. I would like to let you know how much we will miss his ministry, but I believe that his ministry will live on for a very long time in the music that he recorded in his years. I have had his family in my prayers since I found out what had happened. And I have cried my tears for him but I know that he is in Heaven right now singing "Awesome God" face to face with the One that he wrote it for. God Bless You!!!

In Christ's Love,
Erik & Karen Telfer

The Bible says that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We do have a hope, and yet we still grieve. A life well lived and a legacy that will live on in the lives of the members of the band Overflowin' is small comfort, but still we express our sorrow at the loss and our commitment to continue on the legacy of service that he left us all.

Yours in the blessed hope,
Kevin, Roxanne, Gina, and Don of Overflowin'

What a great man! We will all greatly miss him and are in prayer for his family and Mitch and his family. However, in a way, it is a praise as Rich has met God face to face.

Ted Harmon

In February of this year, my wife died in an auto accident, so I know the grief and more that those closest to Rich are feeling. I can't understand why God would take my wife Melissa or Rich, they were both incredible servants of Him. I have had great comfort and healing in knowing and embracing that God's plan is best and that He will be glorified in all things. It is impossible to

understand this side of heaven. God is much bigger than any of us.

Melissa and I were both truly blessed by Rich's ministry and life. His music has moved me and challenged me on many occasions. When Melissa died she was listening to a tape that had many of Rich's songs. I don't know exactly what song she was listening to, but they were all songs of praise and very well may have been one of his.

Rich's ministry will continue for many years to come, just as the great servant Keith Green's has.

I thank God for the time I had with my wife and the ministry of Rich.

In Jesus' Love and Grace,
Tim Wolsborn

I never met Rich personally, but I feel like I knew him. His music was so real, so human, so vulnerable. He will be missed. I saw only one concert of his in Springfield, IL in 1995, but I've followed his life and music for many years. My prayers are with you that you will be comforted by knowing that he is with the One he sang about. His life touched so many people -- he truly was a remarkable musician. I praise God that He guided Rich's life in ways that ministered to so many. I truly hope many more lives are touched by his music that will live on in the hearts of many. While he may not have been recognized for all he did here on this earth, he has his reward now in heaven.

May God bless you and thank you for sharing Rich with the rest of us.

Linda Schweitzer

I never really knew who Rich Mullins was until this year. I attended a concert at the First Baptist Church in McKinney, Texas. The sanctuary was PACKED! Not really people from just McKinney, but from all over! I had to sit in the back of the church and after listening to the first song I realized that I had heard "Rich Mullins" for several years but just didn't know who he was. There he was, barefoot, blue jean shorts (at first I thought he was a "roadie", just setting up the instruments) he sat on the steps of the church and said "I couldn't wait! So we'll start early!" I have never felt the presence of God so CLEARLY as I did at that concert. There were so many, so many, hands raised in exultation to the Lord (mine included). He closed the concert with a very soul stirring rendition of "It Is Well With My Soul", with the whole audience (congregation) singing their parts. What a man! What a ministry! He will be sorely missed here on this planet, but what a reunion we'll have in time. God has truly blessed His people with Rich's life! Praise God for his blessings and his spokespersons. Hold us Jesus, we're shaking like a leaf, you have been King Of Our Glory, won't you be our Prince Of Peace.

Amen

Cindy Presnell

My first intro to Rich was his Never Picture Perfect album. My aunt and uncle had it and gave it to me, thinking I might enjoy it. What an incredible ministry it opened my sister and I up to. Then, through The World Best As I Can Remember It Vol. 1, we got my Mom into him. The best part was during A Liturgy, A Legacy, and A Ragamuffin Band, my Dad, who doesn't appreciate many contemporary Christian artists, found Rich to be someone whose music and lyrics he will always enjoy.

Upon hearing the news that our brother went home on Fri, I popped in Leg, Lit, Rag as I hoped someone heard wrong... After finding the truth, I kept reading and such. Finally, the CD came to 'Land of my Sojourn.' It brought tears to my eyes to hear

"Nobody tells you when you get born here
How much you'll come to love it and
How you'll never belong here
So I call you my country
And I'll be longing for my home
and I wish that I could take you there with me...

And I'll sing His song
And I'll sing His song
In the land of my sojourn"

He's right in front of Our Father, singing his heart out and
praise Him, we will be there with Rich someday... Thank you,
Lord, for lending him to us. You have blessed us with his music
and with Your Presence. You truly are an Awesome God!

Kerri Potter

My first intro to Rich was his Never Picture Perfect album. My
aunt and uncle had it and gave it to me, thinking I might enjoy
it. What an incredible ministry it opened my sister and I up to.
Then, through The World Best As I Can Remember It Vol. 1, we got
my Mom into him. The best part was during A Liturgy, A Legacy,
and A Ragamuffin Band, my Dad, who doesn't appreciate many
contemporary Christian artists, found Rich to be someone whose
music and lyrics he will always enjoy. Thank you, Lord, for
lending him to us. You have blessed us with his music and with
Your Presence. You truly are an Awesome God!

Kerri Potter

To Rich's Family:

We just want you to know how much Rich Mullins' music meant to all
of us. Our youngest son (21) is a senior at the University of
Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas and is majoring in Church

Music. He is a soloist and a member of a contemporary Christian trio named "Trinity." He and the others love to perform Rich's music. He will be greatly missed until we see him on the other side.

The Jim Shoemake Family
Mexia, TX

I went to a Rich Mullins concert when I was 13 or so, my mom drug me along and I thought I would hate it, but he was so cool. Rich's songs touched my heart and many others I know. I keep getting a lump in my throat, but I also know I'll see him in heaven. He's probably working on a new song right now. My heart and prayers go to his family and friends. We'll miss him until we join him.

Our children sang Awesome God in our church. It was a beautiful song and we that means a lot to us for many reasons. Thanks Rich for all the songs...
God Bless

my husband and i have been challenged and encouraged over the past years with rich and his writings. he came to bakersfield, ca and gave a concert that left all of us worshiping, truly at the Throne of God. as we sang 'everywhere i go i see you' and 'o God you are my God' each of us with our eyes closed and our voices lifted felt the warmth of being in the presence of the Almighty and the light from the throne fell upon our faces. i know that rich ended many concerts like this and i realize that the light that fell upon my face was caused by the band turning the stage lights toward the audience. but, in that moment in time we experienced a taste of rejoicing at the throne!!! i will never forget that moment or any of the other moments we were allowed to spend with rich. God

honored our prayers by letting us have some short and yet wonderful times with rich . it is not easy to let him go --- we will miss his barefoot soul.

Pam Rey

You do not know me, but I just recently heard the music of Rich Mullins and instantly became a fan. The world has lost a great singer and songwriter. I hope that others can follow in his footsteps and combine great contemporary music with timeless truths.

Frank Watson
St. Louis, MO

We were blessed by having Rich be a part of our church family as our music minister in the early '80's, and we'll never forget his gentle ways and deep love of Christ. He was truly a Godly man and will be deeply missed. Our prayers are with his family, and with Mitch and his family.

Awesome God,
I thank you for the life of your servant Rich. For the impact eternal and powerful that he had on this world and my life for you. Bless his family and friends with your presence, and the assurance that he now is serenading you face-to-face with the praise he had lifted up over the years. May his prayer be that of all of us:

If I stand, let me stand on the promise,
that You will pull me through.
And if I can't, let me fall on the grace
that first brought me to You.
If I sing, let me sing for the joy

that has borne in me these songs.
And if I weep, let me weep as a man
who is longing for his home.
AMEN.

Thank you Rich.
Thank you God.

P L Leland

My daughter had me buy Rich Mullins tape "Songs", it helped me a great deal. I continue to listen to his words in his songs and I know the love that he had for Jesus. Now he is finally home.

I am sending a letter that we wrote to all our friends who sent cards and help us through a very tragic time. I hope that this letter will help Rich's Mother:

God has worked in tremendous way in our lives. His grace and mercy have comforted us and sustained us so that we can continue to glorify Him. It is not easy to lose a son, but knowing that he now walks in the presence of God fills us with great joy. We know he will never cry as we have or feel the loss that we have, he is praising God and singing with the angels. We know our wait may seem long to us, but for our son it will be like the blink of an eye and we will be together again.

When my son died, my daughter saw a rainbow. There was no clouds in the sky, and as she looked up she saw an orange spot. The spot was by the sun, and it soon filled the sky and a vertical rainbow developed. Several people also saw the rainbow and it has changed their lives. I am sure that many people saw your shooting star and their lives have been changed as well.

In Christ's Love
Mary Bilderback
Dalton, Ohio

Rich's music has continually spoken to my heart since I became a fan in 1992. His CD "Songs" has been in my car for months now and not a week goes by that I don't listen to "Awesome God", "Creed", "If I stand", "Calling out your name" and find these songs as well as others speaking the truths I need once again.

I was fortunate enough to attend one of his concerts in the summer of 1994 in Portland, Maine. I saw in him a depth of sincerity that few Christian artist have. I must say that I am a better christian having had the good fortune of receiving from his musical ministry.

He will be greatly missed!

Tim Kezar

North Berwick, Maine

Dear loved ones,

My sympathy goes out to all of Rich's loved ones. This must be a hard time for all of you, but to know that he's in good hands must be somewhat comforting. I'm not going to say I understand how you feel because I don't and neither does anyone else. I just wanted to let you know that Rich and his music both are a big part of my youth group at home (Slidell, La). We are always singing and rejoicing to his music whether it's at a regular meeting or on a summer trip when we make some of the most awesome memories. Our God is truly an "Awesome God" and Rich reminds us in his music of just how powerful He really is. My prayers are with you.

In Christ,

Kris Mottinger

Many of his songs were used by God to save me and help me. One example is Growing Young, God used it to break me and bring me

back to him.

Jonathan Finger

Rich Mullins was such an incredible artist that I am sure that he and God are bringin' down the house up there! I can't wait to get up there and listen to them jammin' and praising 24/7. Thank you Rich Mullins for dedicating your life to God. He will surely bless you in your new life!

Much love,
Eliot Landrum

My heart is broken. This song is for Rich:

Pass the Torch

My world just turned a little darker today
A great guiding light was snuffed out
I just wasn't ready for it's light to fade away
It had so often scattered my shadows of doubt

I had lost touch with all you meant to me
So much more than just a comrade in arms
The embodiment of a paradox I couldn't conceive
'Till I saw you dare to live it despite others' alarm

Why did you have to go? Only God knows.
Though it's tempting I'll not try to understand
But as my sadness grows, one thing that I know
It's scary to challenge the norm with no one holding your hand

(chorus)

Pass the torch of a life that was made of what's best
Earthy humanity and divine graciousness

Who strove to lay self-importance to rest
Pass the Torch
Pass the torch of a life that was misunderstood
Because it loved the loveless and did all that it could
To call the self-righteous to give as the Master would
Pass the torch
Pass the torch

So, even heros die, and though I resist the reasons why
I still can't believe it's for no reason at all
Is it so the seeds they've sown might start to grow in our hearts
And make heros out of us all?

Sean Rajnic

Rich Mullins first touched my life with his song "My One Thing."
It seems Rich pursued that One thing -- Jesus Christ. Thankfully,
now his music will go on and on...

"I don't want to lose the eternal for the things that are passing,
Cause what will I have when the world is gone,
If it isn't for the love that goes on and on... "
--"My One Thing" Never Picture Perfect, 1989

Susie Horn

I have never written to any artist or a fan letter. I must write
something to thank God for the life and ministry of Rich Mullins.
My prayers are with his family as well as Mitch and his family. I
work part time for KCBI 90.9 fm in Dallas/Ft. Worth. I loved to
play his music and share it with others. He will be sorely missed
until we can all see him on the other side of the Jordan.

Larry Edens

I just want to let you know what a blessing and gift Rich was in my life and in the lives of many of my friends. During the late 1980's and the early 1990's Rich and Beaker did a couple of concerts at our church in Lexington, KY. It was then that I really got to talk with Rich and it just confirmed my beliefs that he was truly a man of God and really cared about the people he was ministering to. I could go on and on but I just want to let you know what a gift he was to all that had the privilege of knowing him and being ministered to by his music. My prayers will be with you and your family. The comforting thought in all of this is that Rich is finally Home smiling down on all of us and waiting for us to join him.

Stephanie C

As I sit here, many things are running through my mind. Songs, stories, memories, and the inspiration felt by all of us from this one ragamuffin singer will never fade. We were fortunate enough to be able to meet Rich, (and Mitch,) when they came to play at our store just months ago. All the excitement built up to the entrance of a guy wearing cutoff jeans, an old t-shirt, and dirty sandals. A well loved ragamuffin, certainly. Our prayers are with you. We are also praying that Mitch recovers swiftly. Our biggest hope is that the legacy of the ragamuffin will never fade.

Brynn Welch

Family Christian Stores

Austin, TX

Rich returned to the "Christ in Youth" conferences this past summer and sang his heart out. He made no secret of the fact that he too had struggles and was very much human, and even seemed somewhat embarrassed when I attempted to explain just how much his music ministers to me. He even signed my guitar. His autograph simply reads "Be God's." I will, Rich, and I am anxious to see you again in Heaven.

Faron M. Davis <><

To the Mullins Family:

My wife and I express our sadness and sense of loss at Rich's passing. Only about a month ago did we see Rich and Mitch perform in Crystal Lake, IL. It was one of the best concerts I have ever seen. We must realize the joy in knowing that he has found his eternal reward, and that we will see him again, soon. I can hear him singing his praise to the Lord!

Roy & Jill Honegger
Island Lake, IL

Dear Mullins family,
Rich Mullins has touched my life. I'm sure that you will hear this over and over again. I hope that just because you hear it so many times, that the phrase will not become caddy. I can not tell you in words how much his music meant to my life. I have spent (and will continue to spend) many nights growing closer to the Lord, Praise God with Rich's music. His concerts were so personal. I enjoyed his blunt honesty.

It's hard to understand God's plan. We only see a little part of it. All I know is that I can't wait to get to heaven to praise God with Rich Mullins leading us in song.

Amanda Jensen

So hard to believe The giver of this beautiful music, These soul-touching words, The inspiration for so many poems and so many godly decisions Is now in heaven. So hard to hear your voice And know that you're gone. This holiness in harmony That I love to

sing and hear, The words that water my soul and grow my life
Magnify the void in the earth's essence. You praised Him with the
mountains You pointed to the cross You served children, dirty and
needy For the real love you had found. You fought against
depression You challenged us to trust You lived your verses, a
mere human being, empowered by the God of promises. We needed you
here. And a candle in our darkness Has burned bright into the
journey through Jordan.

Grace brought you to God, God brought you to us, And the God of
grace welcomed you home.

---Mary Porcher Hane

I met Rich once or twice before; the last time I saw him was at
Cornerstone festival in Illinois. What struck me about Rich was
that he had totally abandoned any desire for acclaim, fame, self-
recognition. He didn't care what people thought--he just loved
Jesus and loved music and the combination those two loves made.
One often feels nervous in the presence of musicians, as if they
are set above us because of what they do. But people didn't feel
that way with Rich. He didn't let them have the image--instead,
he was just real, and he loved people, and therefore at a place
like Cornerstone, with 22,000 people, he could hang out with
anyone or walk on stage and play with any band.

John Book, Age 24

High School English teacher

Future foreign Missionary

May we all live our lives like Rich, for God's glory !!!!!

What a legacy! Little did I know, when I saw Rich walk on stage
bare-footed, what joy and conviction his music would bring to my

heart. He was just so different, so original.

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I am the mother of a precious son, and also a poet and songwriter (unknown) I have listened and bought your son's music; and his incredible gift has definitely blessed me and my sister, Kela. My prayers and heart go out to you from Texas.

Thank you for giving us such a precious son.

We love you in Christ.

Jan Reilly & Kela Briggs

SEPT. 22, 1997

Rich's music has been such a blessing and an inspiration to my husband and I, no other Christian artist has blessed us so much than Rich's. His music has helped me through so many things in my life. When you would listen to him sing and the words that he sang you could just hear how much he loved our Lord and Savior. Rich is in such a glorious place right now and someday we will all be with him singing his songs praising our Lord together. My prayers are with Rich's family that God will comfort them in this time of their sorrow and also with Mitch and his family.

Renee Patchett

We have been to the last four concerts here in San Antonio and each time it has ministered to each of us. At one concert I was thinking, as we were all standing and just praising the Lord, that this must be what heaven will be like. Rich now knows but we still are waiting. Rick and I once saw one of Rich's videos where he was driving an old Chevy Pickup. After that we would always talk about getting ourselves a, "Rich Mullins Truck." We've loved

his music for years and now must wait for heaven to here his next concert.

With much love,
Ron, Darlene, and Rick

Although I never met him, Rich Mullins was a man that I looked up to as a musician and as a Christian. The words to his songs where so Spirit filled. I will miss Rich Mullins. I always hoped to have a chance to jam with him and I know that one day in the presence of our Lord Jesus, I will. In a way I envy Rich. Today, right now he is standing in the presence of Jehovah. He is looking with his own eyes at Jesus. He is singing praises with the angels(some of the praises he probably wrote). My prayers are with the family and friends that he left behind. I know that the Holy Spirit will provide grace to make it through the coming days.

For HIS glory and HIS alone,
Aaron W. Stone
Psalms 30:11

Rich was one of the first christian artists I heard.His music was profound and intelligent . They were rooted in grace, God's grace which he so strongly believed in. SHALOM RICH WE LOVE YOU!!!!

I can't put into words what his music meant to me, it hit at such a deep place, a place I wasn't even aware I had, other than that it moved me closer to God and urged me to be His. And that I'll miss his music and honesty greatly.

you're in my prayers,
Ann

I remember driving to work one day and hearing "If I Stand" for the first time. I could hardly see because of the tears the song brought to my eyes. That was one of the many times I have been shaken by one of Rich's songs. In my busy world, I have often run so fast that I ran right by the Lord... how many times one of Rich's songs have made me stop and stand in awe of my Lord; stop and re-sort my priorities. Thank you, Rich, for your obedience and servitude to Christ... you have reminded a lot of us that following Jesus is not only the most important, but the only important thing in our earthly lives. Thank you for your example. Thank you for leaving so many wonderful songs behind.

Arthur Breault

Rich Mullins was a servant who loved all people. If I could choose one person to be my role model it would be him. I know that today many Christians share the pain and broken heart that I feel. My heart gives praise and glory to God for the life and example of Rich Mullins!!

The Lord has set his throne in Heaven and his kingdom rules over everything - Psalm 103:19

With the utmost love and respect
Matt Stone.

Without a doubt, the scenes described in the song "Thank You" are part of Rich's "Welcoming Home" party!

Our prayers are with all of you.

Rich's lyrics make one analyze the roots of their faith and Who

they place that faith in.

I'm reminded of the chorus of "Hold Me Jesus" -

So hold me Jesus, 'cause I'm shaking like a leaf
You have been King of my glory
Won't You be my Prince of peace

Rich will be sorely missed, but he leaves quite a musical legacy behind. May his music continue to reach out and touch people to glorify Christ.

Julie Gleitsmann

I wonder if ever there will be another artist, Christian, servant, man like him. He was everything that I want to be and He walked so close to Christ and i only pray that someday I will be as close to Christ as he was. To Rich's mother, I thank you for your son's ministry to my life. Many a time he has helped me through difficult moments in my life through the words in his songs. They were more than songs. They were pictures of Jesus' life, they were descriptions of things he went through and things other Christians have been through and will go through. Again, I am overwhelmed with the fact that we will never be able to hear Rich's beautiful voice or his talents with all the many instruments he played again except through CD's and tapes. On the other hand, I am so happy for Rich. I'm sure that he's playing in the biggest concert of his life. A live performance for his Maker. Play on, Rich! I love you and will miss you.

Tom Sanderson

Rich gave my best friend and the love of my life hope when he thought he could not see light at the end of the tunnel. I bless Rich for that. He touched my heart, also ,and I'm sorry I discovered his amazing clarity in expressing God's love so late.

May God shelter Mitch under his wings.

Lori Ann

To Rich's Mother,

I want you to know you and your loved ones are in my prayers for God's peace and comfort through this. I never knew your son, nor heard his music, I only feel your hurt, I, too lost a family member 13 years ago, and the peace God gave me through it I want to pass on to you.

Love,

Priscilla

Isaiah 30:15 In repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.

The world has lost a true artist and servant. I will always be thankful for Rich's music, ministry, and integrity.

David Newman

Texas

Among the million gifts God gave me through Mr. Mullins: I was home alone for over a week without contact with any friends or family. I was tired and dried out from work, experiencing an aesthetic drought. On my way home I picked up a copy of his latest album, and my thirst for the beauty of godliness was satisfied.

-- Joel Jirak

Rich's music led me to a more devoted lifestyle of Scripture reading and prayer. His humble honesty and poetic lyrics struck a

chord in me as a teenager in the late 80's that no sermon ever did or ever will. Praise God for His new addition in Heaven.

Jason Jones
Cincinnati, OH

I believe Rich was a musical & poetical genius whose veins were filled with the Love & inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The music he gave us was meat & potatoes and ALWAYS lifted my spirit into worship of our Awesome God even when I have been in the depths of despair. It's ironic that even now, in the depths of my grief, that it is Rich's music that still brings me closer to the Father & finding comfort. I am thankful for the gift God gave us in Rich.

I had never met Rich, but somehow he was a friend. He was someone that knew how I felt. His music expressed feelings that I could never have expressed. He was my mentor through his music when I was just a young Christian. I thank God for the life he shared with all the rest of us. I send my blessing to all of his family and friends. May God's peace rest upon each one of you.

Many times I have stood with several men in the psychiatric unit of a maximum security prison singing praises to God. "Awesome God" was a song that seemed to give them and me an extra measure of strength. It is a song of magnitude with "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art". I can just see the open arms of God as He hands Rich a guitar and sits down to hear a personal concert.

Eddie Grissom

i recalled meeting with Rich after one of his concerts- he was so wonderfully real and honest. i told him how much his music had meant to me in my life thus far. humbly, he smiled and handed me a piece of paper in which he'd written "kristin- be God's" when i moved from my parents' home for college i carefully placed that piece of paper in the boxes. it is carefully placed on the wall for me to see everyday. his music touched my life, and i was able to share it with my family and give them the joy and comfort that Rich was so capable of lovingly sharing with the world. though i cannot understand the works of God's hand, i am secure in the knowledge that beautiful music will greet me when i one day go "home." may dear God, help us to keep the beauty of his songs in our heart until that day.

kristin faith dodson-cope

I was so changed, so encouraged, by his music. And still am. I really feel like I'm losing a friend because he poured out his heart into every one of his songs. That music meant more than anything to me. His was the best music EVER. His message lives on. The passion, love, oh, such passion. God knows how many times I've listened to his music on headphones in the middle of the night and just cried and cried. I am so thankful for the impact that he had on me. So thankful for the music. The message. His music communicated to me like nothing else. Pierced me when my heart was at its hardest. Touched me when I felt alone.

God's love (the only love)
Audra

To the Mullins Family:

Several years ago I volunteered to work as a DJ at a Christian radio station in Austin, Texas. It was there that I was first exposed to Rich's music. His talent for incorporating everyday

imagery with scripture and his sense of wonder for this planet God has given us made a lasting and profound impression. For several years I travelled extensively and his music made the perfect companion.

Rich Mullins made a profound impact on my life through his talent and his ministry. I was not privileged to know him personally but I know that he touched and transformed many people with his music and his passion and because we live in a time where his songs are preserved he will continue to give strength to those in need, express the joy of being a child of God, and remind us that God's creation lives around us everywhere.

Thank you for sharing him with the world - even if it was for too brief a time.

Lisa Greene
Hollywood, CA

Very few Christian artists (Michael Card is the only other name that comes to mind) have ministered to me as Rich. Rich showed me that there was a place for the unconventional in Christianity. He never pandered to dogma or doctrine, he only pointed people to the Savior. I would be pleased to have a similar epitaph.

John Miller

I am eight years old and Rich Mullins was my favorite singer. The song I like the best is the 9th song on The World as Best as I Remember It ("I SEE YOU") . I like that song the best because I like the words to it. Thanks to Rich for helping to teach me that I can see God everywhere I go. Thank you Jesus for Rich Mullins.

Lisa Danowski

For the family of Rich Mullins:

What a tremendous blessing Rich's music has been in our home. We sing God's praises every day with the words that Rich has shared with us. May God comfort you through your grief.

In Christ,
Greg and Cathy Joens

I have been in the Christian music industry for almost seven years now. I entered when I was only 18. I am not a musician, but someone who is merely on the inside dealing with the sales of Christian music. I have seen a lot of negative things in my time in this industry, so many negative things, that at many times, I wondered if Christianity was even real. I entered this industry because of my love of music--especially Christian music. I still grow disillusioned and often I need a reminder that it is real and that people still sing only as an expression of worship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Along the road, there have been some, but very few, artists who have been able to remind me of this. I am often depressed and saddened over the way the Christian music industry has gone. But every once in awhile, I'll hear a song to remind me. Mrs. Mullins, I just wanted to let you know, that your son's music has done this for me. Each and every time I hear it, I know it to be an expression of worship to Jesus. I really appreciate it. Because of people like him, I desire to stay in the Christian music industry and be a light, because I believe they need one there as well as the world. It is also because of your son's ministry to the Indians, I desire to get involved in a mission field in my own back yard. I will be moving to South Dakota in a year and I plan on volunteering at a reservation.

Thanks for taking the time to raise and nurture your son in the way he should go. He has truly made a difference in my life.

Sincerely,

Joy Feola

KLOVE says this is the site to send family condolences for the passing of Rich Mullins. He was a most anointed man, whose work profoundly touched our walk with Christ through insightful lyrics, premium musicianship, and spiritual depth. When I told my children this morning about his death, my 4 1/2-year-old son, Ben, said, "Mommy, let's sing Kum-ba-yah for him." He started and I followed. He sang the first verse and just one more, "someone's singing... " He did this with no sadness at all, but a radiant joy. I cannot describe how greatly it pleased him to do this (and me to see it). You see, he found a way to give something back.

Kate Vander Sluis

Mrs. Mullins,

I am so sorry to hear about Rich losing his life. In this time of need, I will be praying for you and the rest of the family. Keep the holy spirit with you, and you will make it through, I promise.

Matt Johnson

I'm a member of St. Timothy's Catholic Community in Mesa Arizona, and worked with Rich and Mitch on the debut of 'Canticle of the Plains' last Thanksgiving. While here they stayed at my house. Rich and I spent a number of nights (and mornings) talking while we drank pot after pot of coffee. Those were some great conversations - ones that I will remember. Rich and Mitch have been back several times and were embraced by our parish as living examples of GOD at work.

Kathy Troccoli was at church last night and shared with us some of her stories of Rich in the 'early' years in Nashville. Stories of

how he would show up about midnight wanting to use her piano to work out some material - through that she told us how much he ministered to her. We loved him very much and will miss him.

Our prayers are with Rich's family and with Mitch for a speedy recovery.

Courtney

I know that my words cannot lessen your loss, but I would like to share from way over here in NC, how Rich Mullins affected our lives. No, we never saw him over here; we had the privilege of meeting him at the North American Christian Convention in St. Louis in 1993. We didn't meet him at the concert he presented for who knows how many teens and sponsors. (We had the privilege of hearing him play "Awesome God" and "Step-by-Step" on the piano in that concert) I met him on the street!!

My girls and I saw him on the street on our way to visit the Arch. My girls were too shy to go talk to him; but I (their mother) went up to him and started talking to him. He talked with me as if I had known him all my life. I asked my friend to take our picture together -- it didn't turn out.

I didn't ask for his autograph; I just spent some time with him. I don't have a picture, I don't have an autograph; I just have a memory. A memory of a few moments with a person I'll never forget. He certainly did not get into all the hype of being a celebrity, nor did he look down on me for being an "over-zealous Mom" for trying to show her daughters up! Later on when we were in the Bible Bowl area, he walked through and spoke to me again.

I am proud to say that my daughters have grown up on Christian music and in our collection of music are many of Rich's cassettes and CD's.

Both of my daughters enjoy his music (even though they were afraid to talk to him!) We just received his latest CD, "Songs" recently.

I love his "Faith Without Works" song!! He truly had a gift of making the Word come alive and understandable.

Christians everywhere feel the loss of such a great musician, but he left us a legacy that will last until we all join him in his Home in Heaven. The American Family Radio gave a wonderful tribute to Rich today -- one of the radio announcers said that Rich must be enjoying the Awesomeness of God that he could not imagine here on earth!

My prayers go out to you for our Heavenly Father to comfort you in the days ahead and give you strength to carry on. We also pray for God's will in the life of Mitch and for his family as they wait by his side. God bless you all!

Love In Jesus Name!
Laurie Rhodes
New Bern, North Carolina

If it weren't for Rich, I don't know how I would have made it through those tough junior high years. His ministry and his music will live in my soul forever. If it wasn't for him, I would have completely given up a long time ago. In junior high, I was the only christian in my entire school. Thanks to Rich's music and the music of others like him, I didn't completely given over to the secular world of parties and drinking etc... I love his album A Liturgy A legacy & A Ragamuffin Band. That's just what he is, a legacy. His music, written for the holy father, will live on in those who loved him and his work. My condolences to his family. You are surely in my prayers.

Ken Kaczmarek

Words cannot express the sorrow in the loss of Rich Mullins. His music has touched my heart deeply. We'll miss him.

To Rich's mom,
you will be in my prayers as you go through this hard time. I know it's hard, but God will be there always. I remember when I was little, about 6 or 7, I heard "Pictures In The Sky"(is that right??) and I thought it was the most wonderful song in the world. I used to dance to it and sing at the top of my lungs. Now, every time my youth group sings "Hold Me Jesus", I about start crying. That has to be the most beautiful song in the world. I know how hard it is losing a loved one. I lost a friend last October that was basically my brother. It still seems unreal. Rich blessed so many lives with his music. I never got to see him in concert, but I loved his music. Cling to Jesus and to His promises... and wait for the day when you will see Our Lord face to face, and then you will see your son.

Love In Christ,
Amy L. Callahan

Rich's music spoke to us at a very deep level, he was an artist with the talent of speaking about complicated things in a very simple heartfelt way. Rich has made a difference in our lives. I hope that you find comfort in the fact that Rich and the God that he praised and worshiped, are now standing face to face.

The Shunk Family
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

What a man of God. I will miss him sorely! His lyrics seemed to be from the heart of God. To me he did go out in a "Chariot of Fire". Thank you Rich, I look forward to seeing you in Heaven with the Lord Jesus. Enjoy!

It was in March of 1996 that my parents' were both diagnosed as being terminally ill with cancer (Mom age 57, Dad Age 60). They both died within six (6) weeks of each other seven (7) months later. It was Rich's music and his compassion for the Lord that gave my family and I strength during a very difficult time.

As a Christian I do not always know how to walk, but Rich has shown me where to walk.

God-Bless you Rich and Mitch. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

John Dougherty

Rich's music helped me through many a difficult time - it seemed to reach out and speak to my heart. I know the Holy Spirit used his words and music to minister and reach people. One other bright hope is that Rich's music will continue to reach others for Christ and minister and lift up those Christians who are seeking God's will. The legacy of his love for our Awesome God will live on until Jesus returns. A thank you to Rich's family for giving the world such an obvious follower of Christ.

Pauline Stark

I just wanted to share my sympathies for family members, friends, and fans.

When I heard of the news this past Sunday afternoon, I couldn't help but cry. I know that Rich is in far more a better place than here, and that he is suffering not. When I learned of the accident, I played one of Rich's cds. The very first song I listened to was "Here In America." I would like to share some words that touched my heart so deeply, like Rich's songs have done

so many times before:

"... and I've seen by the highways on a million exit ramps
those two legged memorials to the laws of happenstance

J Bickley

I was overwhelmed, but not at all surprised to see the number of people, who like me, were touched and blessed by Rich's ministry. He was so REAL! I am thankful that God allowed me to experience the wonder of his music. He lifted my spirits, created hope in me, and often times brought me back to the Lord when the things of the world got in the way! His music will forever live on, as will his memory. Until we meet again...

D J Cole

Rich's music has made a major impact on me since I came to the Lord in 1990. His message seemed to grip my heart and excite my soul as no other. I can't help thinking of "Elijah." That son really helped me get over some fears of dying as I listened to how anxious Rich was to go home to be with the Lord.

His family is in my prayers.

Linda Poye

What is so exciting, is that Rich himself sang of the "wideness in God's mercy, I cannot find in my heart" I am so excited for him and his ability to understand that love now on a first hand basis. i will miss him greatly. his songs have and still do bring me to tears. his insight was truly a gift from God. I now cannot wait until that day when Rich and his dulcimer lead us all in a heavenly version of "Awesome God". Thank you, Rich, for your

unique ability to touch my heart by your music. enjoy.....

Dave

Rich's music seemed to touch a chord somewhere within me primarily I think because of it's honesty about real life. I know his prayer when he sang "Hold me Jesus" is now being fulfilled literally. May Jesus hold you and yours during this time of grief and may your grief be mingled with joy and the peace of God which passes understanding. I am looking forward to meeting Rich someday the other side of eternity.

My life and the lives of my wife and children have been so impacted by his music that I feel that I have something important to say. I grew up listening to extremely talented people singing fun songs with dysfunctional lyrics. When I discovered Christian music, my life changed. I can't describe the joy I felt the first time I heard my children running through our house singing at the top of their lungs that "step by step He leads me" and that they will follow Him all of their days. Through the years we collected all of Rich's music and our whole family (including our 6-year old) sing along to every song.

Our family worked in Africa for 10 years, and at times we thought we were totally empty. Then Rich would sing about the Prince of Peace and fill us up while we drove through the Great Rift Valley. When he sang of the mountains singing and the rocks crying out praise to God, we felt renewed. Today when he sings those songs to us, we are flooded with memories of a beautiful land with beautiful people, and now that we live in Appalachia, more memories are being made daily.

His lyrics continue to bring me to tears, minister to me, make me smile, make me laugh and draw me closer to God. I am grateful.

Steve Greek

I love Rich's music, my 6 and 3 year old go around the house singing at the top of their lungs "Awesome God". I told my 6 year old today, that he had died, as we were listening to one of his songs on the radio, and she said, but that's his voice, isn't it. I told her yes, and she said, then he can never die if we can still hear his songs, that is when I cried. In knowing he is with God, and feeling sadness at his passing, at the same time today, I came a realization of my own, I'm sad, for MY loss, but also feel joy in knowing, without a doubt, that Rich Mullins is with God, and that brought me an incredible peace, in the face of this tragedy. I reached a new plateau in my relationship with God today. I can think of nothing more important to say about Rich's life than that was what his music was all about, he wanted EVERYONE to know his "Awesome God", and it is evident that he succeeded.

Lorri Nevil
Canton, TX

I grew up listening to extremely talented people singing fun songs with dysfunctional lyrics. When I discovered Christian music, my life changed. I can't describe the joy I felt the first time I heard my children running through our house singing at the top of their lungs that "step by step He leads me" and that they will follow Him all of their days. Through the years we collected all of Rich's music and our whole family (including our 6-year old) sing along to every song.

Our family worked in Africa for 10 years, and at times we thought we were totally empty. Then Rich would sing about the Prince of Peace and fill us up while we drove through the Great Rift Valley. When he sang of the mountains singing and the rocks crying out praise to God, we felt renewed.

Today when he sings those songs to us, we are flooded with memories of a beautiful land with beautiful people, and now that we live in Appalachia, more memories are being made daily. We were crushed by the news that we heard today. All of us cried. But it was not the first time that Rich made me cry. His lyrics continue to bring me to tears, minister to me, make me smile, make me laugh and draw me closer to God. I am grateful.

Steve Greek

Rich wrote:

"... and I've seen by the highways on a million exit ramps those two legged memorials to the laws of happenstance waiting for four wheeled messiahs to take them home again but I am home anywhere if You are where I am."

Wow. I praise God for such a short time that we all had to share Rich and his talents. He was such a Godly man, and will be missed such much. But, beyond a shadow of a doubt, I know that Rich is at home.

J. Bickley

I heard Rich sing in person for the first time this summer. I have been a Christian for just over one year, and his music has inspired me to know God more deeply. I have been through some personal struggles this year; Rich helped minister to me through his music. Sometimes it just seems like there are some people with their hearts so completely devoted to God that He just can't wait to have them in Heaven with Him. God just couldn't wait any longer for Rich to come home. We will miss him. I praise God that Rich was faithful to do what He called him to do; otherwise, my life would not have been the same. My thoughts and prayers are with you, his family. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Spencer Shaver

Dear the family of Mr. Rich Mullins,

I am very sorry for the loss of such a wonderful man of Christ. God has worked incredibly through him and has touched more lives than I think anyone could ever realize. Although, we need to be thankful for God to give us someone like Mr. Mullins, even though it was for a short time. We also need to remember that he is at home with the Father, and we will be able to be with them both one day. Life here on earth is so short, but being at home with the Father is for an eternity. I am praying for all of you and I know that God will give you peace and comfort.

Love in Christ,
Trinity Schultz

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" I Thessalonians 5:16-18

I've been trying to understand why I can't seem to get Rich Mullins off my mind and my heart- and why I cry over one whom I never met or even saw in concert. I knew him only by his music and by reputation.

I guess his whole life was the picture of someone who God was constantly transforming into the image of His Son. And his whole life in its entirety presents a challenge: here was Rich Mullins- obviously richly talented- who did not live by what he sang; rather, he sang what he was already living. His words came from his life and his heart- not the other way around... God had him from the inside out and it appears to me that music was only a manifestation and an expression of the man God created in him.

He was one of the brightest examples of a "little Christ"; he

seized the opportunity to be Jesus (if you will) to hundreds personally- Jesus blessed his work and with it fed millions, with baskets-full left over.

His music is as inspiring as his life. He was so incredibly real and personal... He was like Paul or D. Moody, a life almost completely abandoned to Christ.

And all the attention given to Rich Mullins because of this tragedy makes the God of his life shine all the brighter: I am moved to live in complete abandon for Christ and the ministry because of him. I grieve with you. I feel what can only be small portion of your loss and I know from talking with many down here at the University of Houston that for every letter you receive, there are dozens of people who hurt from this that you will not hear from. My heart is broken, but I know that the God who "reigns from Heaven above with WISDOM, POWER, and LOVE" will heal the wounds and use your loss for good none of us will know... this side of Heaven.

Jacob Kimbrough

I saw Rich perform in Louisville's Joy Jam a few years ago. I had never seen such a humble and loving man. I wish that I could have half the love that he radiated. Thank you Rich for your compassion. And your music will still draw me closer to Him.

Dwayne Powell

I'm sorry to hear about Rich's death. He was a great musician and a great Christian man. My father went to be with the Lord a little over a year ago, leaving a 43 year old widow, a 13 yr.old girl, a 17 yr. old girl, and me, a 19 yr.old son to live life. I know what it's like to lose a love one. He is in a better place.

God Bless,
Chris Coppenbarger

Though I never met Rich, through his music he was a brother to me. I will miss him greatly. I am happy, though, that we can find comfort in knowing that he has gone to be with his Father in heaven and that soon we can join him there. To his family: I am so sorry. I just can't find the words to express what I am feeling. May God be with you (his family) and all his friends.

Mark

One of the first things that came to my mind besides the shock and disbelief, was the song Rich wrote "Can I be with You". The desire of Rich's heart is now fulfilled. He is with the Father.

Thank you Father for Rich Mullins and his faithfulness to you and his ability to express prayers and worship so beautifully in song. I pray it would be your will to heal his friend and that you would be glorified through this event.

I hope and pray that his music will continue to bless, encourage, educate, and bring the listeners into the wonderful light of the glory of God.

Gregg Koehn

I want to send my prayers and condolences to Rich's mother and family, to his fellow musicians, and to the Native American children his life has touched.

I thank God for his music, it has touch my life and helped me grow closer to Jesus and God. I'm sorry I'll never get to see him play the hammer dulcimer again, but I guess he's playing it for God

now.

from Ps. 23 You anoint my head with oil: my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Tim Sanford

Rich was a wonderful, loving, gifted Christian. This world will
miss him. I will miss him.

My prayers are with you,
Jim Cowan

I wanted to take a moment and express my condolences to the family
of Rich Mullins. At a time such as this, one doesn't really know
what to say. All I can do is tell you that Rich greatly impacted
my life, not only through his lyrics and songs but also through
the words that he spoke. He was truly a minister of God! When he
spoke I listened and my life has been all the better because God
gave the world Rich Mullins for an incredible season. God bless
you all! You are in my thoughts and prayers tonight and always!

Shannon Ballard

the news paper in my town said rich mullins was best known for the
song "our God is and awesome God" i don't believe that is so. he
was a son, a brother a friend. as i hear the songs of rich
mullins played, i believe he continues to minister to those left
behind.

thank you lord for the wonderful person in rich mullins. you
truly are an awesome god. we don't understand but we trust

completely your will. as a listen to the music of rich on the radio, i know his ministry will continue and that must make him smile in heaven. thank you jesus.

thanks rich... ..until we meet again in heaven..... continued prayers for the mullins and mcvicker families..

susan osterhout

Your son was such a inspiration to me. Rich's music has ministered to my heart and blessed me greatly. I was fortunate to get to meet Rich once at Friends University. You must have taught him the great humility he has. The radio station here in Wichita played Elijah after they announced the news. I remember the line "it won't break my heart to say good-bye" It may not break Rich's heart because of the great joy he has now, but it sure broke mine. My prayers are with you during this time of sorrow.

Stan Jayne

Dear Rich's Mom,

I don't even know what you are going through, I only know what I have gone through, and I think I must tell you, you don't have to feel the way that everyone tells you to, you feel what ever you are feeling not what everyone expects you to feel. That's what I've learned. Your son taught me so much, gave so much to others, and brought so much peace to my life through his music. He was one of my heros, I have striven to be as selfless and giving as he is and I will continue to do so for the rest of my life. Thank you for teaching your son to love not only God but also everyone else. I shed tears of deep sorrow for me, but smile joyfully for him, because he is in the presence of my Father and my King.

May all who continue to hear his music be greatly blessed. Just think Rich is singing Awesome God to God's face. What a reward

for this life. God be with us for we need your comfort.

Peace to you is my wish,
Tiffani Barnes
Longview, Texas.

Please let his friends and family know that I did not cry very much. While I feel as great sense of loss in the man, I feel a greater gain in the songs and the words Rich left for all of us that will always be with us. And also, I feel relief in knowing that this time apart will only be for a short time. Only until the time our Lord takes us all home.

Love and Peace in Christ,
R. Raymond McGirt
West Baden Springs, IN

He came to my life at a very young age. I listened to every word he sang. I loved God more and more from the analogies that Rich sung. As I grew older and experienced life's trials, I grew away from God. As I recall how Rich touched my life with his songs, I remember how much I loved God. If nothing else, this has brought me back. Thank you, Rich for all your beautiful music. Like Amy Grant once sung, "It's not a song till it makes you cry... "

--Alicia--

To the Family and dear Friends of Rich Mullins~~

It may not have broken his heart to say goodbye, but it surely did mine.... Rich's music was such a ministry and blessing from God to me for so many years. I am a single mother of a young son, and I cannot count the number of times I have been down on my knees,

overburdened by the pressures of raising my son alone, when I would hear "Our God is an Awesome God" and my soul would be lifted. I wish that I could have heard this wonderful man in concert, yet I thought that I had enough time. How it must break your heart to lose him.... I cannot imagine.

My comfort is in how awed Rich must have been to see His Lord, and how heaven must have been filled with the most beautiful harmony as Rich lifted his voice to the Lord among the voices of the angels. He sings to his Lord now... just where he wanted to be. I loved Rich, and wanted to meet him so badly.... I wish I had been given that chance. I know that I will someday, and will be able to thank him for the blessing that he was, and will continue to be. May God comfort you in your time of loss, and your family and Mitch's family are in my prayers. Rich, may you sing forevermore to your Lord and King..... God bless you.

In Christ,
Julie Ann

I am Max Little and I live in Texas and I am now a much better person that some one is out there in the world to watch over us. I think the reason why God made it this way so we can see him more and that has happened to me. I feel down and sad that we have lost one of our most best person of our lives and that we should pray every day for his family. I also wish that some one will make a album on Rich Mullins or name a WOW 1998 after him

Max

I would like to send my condolences to Rich's family, friends, and other fans. For Mitch and his family, my prayers are with you. I would also like to give glorious praises to God for allowing us to borrow Rich and his wonderful message through song for such a short time. It was definitely time well spent, and very much appreciated by those who heard and were touched. Rich, you live

on in your songs and in our hearts. Although we could not be selfish and keep you here with us, your message allows us to keep a part of you forever. You are with HIM now, sing your praises to the Lord!

Cindy Plowman

To Rich Mullin's Family,

I am so sorry to hear about the tragic death of your son. He was an awesome witness of how God can use people to build up His Kingdom. Rich truly portrayed his testimony through his songs... I appreciated his worship and his humility through his ministry. I can truly say he was my most admired Christian musician. He was an amazing servant and we really appreciated his ministry. We will be praying for your family in this time of need. God can bring us through all circumstances, I am sure Rich is in a much better place praising God right now!

Love in Christ,

Kevin Noll

Jenny Nuss

my deepest sympathy to the family and to I guess Rich's church for the death of Rich. I will be praying for his family.

from

sharen l.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I cannot pretend to understand the grief that you all are feeling at this time. You have lost a son, a brother, a friend. I have lost family and friends before and each one left a unique void and

brought about a unique form of grief that was unlike all the others. The loss of Rich has affected me in a similar way. I only saw him in concert once, but his music has been a constant in my life for over seven years now. A friend introduced me to his music when I told him that I thought all Christian Music was just a cheap take-off of legitimate mainstream. When I heard Rich's music, that went out the window. "Hold Me Jesus" got me through a time when my personal, academic and family life were collapsing all around me. All that kept me going was the knowledge that not only did someone else feel the same that I did, but was so unashamed of this that he was willing to sing it loud and clear for the world to know.

I rejoice that Rich is with our Lord and weep for the void that he leaves in all of our lives.

In Christ's Love,
David

Rich, you never knew my name. Nonetheless, I've lost a living inspiration, a mentor, a friend, and a brother. I don't know how to just feel just now. I'm filled with grief and anger at the same time. I'll miss you, Rich. My wife and I will continue to cherish your work.

Doug Wilkerson

My girlfriend really got me listening to Rich's music and I finally got to see him in concert. "Liturgy" always brings to my mind the sight of him on stage with one of his Native American brothers dancing to the music. It gave it such visual poetry to the song. See you on the other side, Brother!

Jack

The past few weeks have been filled with the news of the death of people I admired and cared for, despite the fact I had no personal acquaintance with them. Princess Diana was painful only because of the knowledge that she didn't know Jesus Christ. Mother Teresa was difficult, but like Rich, I am confident that she is with Christ this very moment.

Our bible study will be lifting up his friend in our prayers, as well as for the members of Rich's family. Please extend my personal condolences to both families.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Doyle

What is it about Rich that made me so sad when I first heard about his death? I believe that Rich's music has influenced my spiritual walk in ways no other "Christian musician" has. Songs like "Growing Young", "If I Stand", "Elijah" and "Peace" have allowed me to learn more about God's character as well as recognize where I stand in my spiritual walk. His songs have comforted me through hard times and shared my joy in blessed times. I have learned to appreciate much of the Bible through his music, because that is where much of it comes from. Why do I feel such a loss at his death? It is because he has been my hero and my inspiration for so long. From what I know about his work, his lifestyle, his ministry, I long that I might become even remotely as Godly of a man as he was. He fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith.

I also wonder a lot about why God would take a man like Rich while he was still so active and influential. Perhaps praise and worship up in heaven was getting a little boring and God needed someone to spice it up. Besides, who else down here really plays the hammer dulcimer like Rich plays it? I think it's time for David to scoot over w/ his harp and make some room for Rich. There is no one out there in this field close to him in talent,

songwriting and example. That is, because what he had was something he was blessed with as well as something that came through a lifetime of devotion to God.

My CCM radio station is continually playing Rich Mullins today... the song "Maker of Noses" is on now... I'm glad to know that Rich, who followed the "Father of hearts and the Maker of noses and the Giver of dreams", is in "a place where people live in perfect peace; where there is food on every plate; where work is rewarded and rest is sweet; where the color of your skin won't get you in or keep you out; where justice reigns and truth FINALLY wins... "

Geoff Chang

I never new Rich Mullins personally, just through his music. After I was saved in 1991, at the age of 40, his song, "Awesome God" became somewhat of an anthem for me after first hearing it. I wept when I heard he had been killed. My Christian walk has not been what it should be and I pray that I might be more like Jesus in my walk. I feel as if I somehow knew Rich personally through his music. I know I will someday get to see him in heaven. The last few lines of his song "HOME" keep ringing in my head and make me believe Rich really was truly longing to go home. "And now the morning comes And everything that really matters Become the wings You sent to gather me To my home To my home I'm going home"

Richard Hood

The words of Rich Mullins are the ones that have gotten me through countless lonely nights through my trials and tribulations. I thank God for the gift he has given me.

Brian Kelley

I cannot begin to express my feelings of loss for such a Great Man of God. Six years ago, Rich and Beaker came to our church. They played and sang the praises of our Lord and Savior for 4 1/2 hours. It was evident to me then, and especially now, how important it is to be right with God. Since then, his music has helped to strengthen me and bring me even closer to our Awesome God. The World has lost a spiritual inspiration, but Heaven has truly gained a Godly Man. Till we meet again..... and we will!

Elizabeth Ykimoff

To the Mullins Family,

Hearing of Rich's sudden death was such a shock. We are so sorry for the loss that you must be feeling. We can see him saying good-bye world, hello Lord! Being left behind will be hard and as the days go by hold on to the truth of God's love and His word. Our family is praying for you and sending support and love to you all.

The first time we heard a Rich Mullins song, we were heading for pizza and a visiting friend said that we just had to put in this great new tape he had... he said you won't believe this guy and his songs! The moment "Our God Is An Awesome God", was sung we were Mullins fans! Our kids were in the 3rd and 5th grade. They are now in the 10th and 12th grades, and many a night has a CD put them to sleep or a song played over repeatedly to get through a rough time! We shall treasure the songs, music, and the gift of himself shared through his music.

We are listening to a special 2 hour K-love presentation of the songs of Rich Mullins... it's wonderful and a blessing!

In God do we trust,
Ray, Donna, Cory, and Katie Settelmeyer
Springfield, Oregon

I know that you do not know me, but I just wanted to write. I know that you have been getting a lot of mail by the looks of it. So I will make this short. I saw Rich in concert for the first time at my church (First Assembly in Lafayette, IN) in June or July. I usually helped set up for the concerts and different things like that. I always like to talk to the people to really get to see what they are like in person. I didn't get to talk to Rich very much, but you could just tell by his personality that he was a caring and loving person. Then his concert was the best that I have ever been to, because I like instruments, and he really had a lot of them, and he could play them too.

I will be praying for Mitch's family, and also Rich's !!

Lacey Stringer

Hello, I wish to convey to you my deepest condolences and respect in the loss of your son. While I did not know him personally, he touched my life in many ways through his music. I know that words are hollow at a time like this, but my prayers are with you and your family. I pray that God's peace will be with you.

In Christ,
Kent Buffington

Rich has impacted my life more than I could ever express. I loved him. I'm just bummed that I'm going to have to wait for about sixty years to meet him! I will be praying for you.

to Rich's family I thank him so much for his words, delivered through him from his relationship with Christ. He helped me cope

with my 4 year old son's death (Dylan) when he wrote, sung and gave us the healing words, "the scars from the pain did not leave our hearts hardened but only made us stronger," these, grown from his own struggle to cope with your child's death.

Through his insight he shared so many beautiful things and truly helped make the world a better place! He's a poet that reigns far superior to any of the contemporary secular poets. His legacy immortalized in his words, songs, music and the strengthen relationship we were spurred on to have with God through Christ. His relationship with his Lord was so strong, so precious and so glorious he could not help but to share it with us, and further remind us of the truly precious friend we have in Jesus. As Jesus would say, "Now go and do likewise."

I'm so grateful for the time I spoke to him in Gainesville, Florida, grasped his wide hands (a sign of service) and thanked him for the way he allowed Christ to work through him. He smiled big as if that was all he ever wanted or needed to make his life complete. Praise be to God for giving us such an awesome servant for our time. Thank you Rich for your service and your example of a truly beautiful Christian Man.

jenneine lambert
gainesville, FL

I am writing to tell you that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that God will give you a peace that passes all understanding. God will walk through this with you. Depend on Him and trust Him.

Rich was an awesome man of God. He reached many with the love of Jesus Christ. I am sure his rewards are many.

I'll be praying for you all until God tells me to stop. Just don't give up on God. He loves you all.

Your sister in Christ Jesus, Tiffany

Thanks for this opportunity to express my gratitude for Rich's life and music, my grief at losing him, and my joy in the Christian love expressed by these many heartfelt messages. I feel that Rich truly allowed himself to decrease, while Christ increased. That's why we all loved him so, because we glimpsed Jesus Christ in him. Praise God for this light that shined far and wide and for the glorious music that lives on!

I pray for Mitch, for all the families and friends touched by this tragedy: "hold them, Jesus."

Gary, Barbara, and Walter Coots

The grieving is for those of us left behind. Rejoice in knowing a brother in Christ has gone home to be with the Lord. Like all "saints", his impact will be felt through death because he not only "talked the talk, but, walked the walk"!

My prayers go out to his mother, his brothers, and his sisters. Our loss is Heavens gain.

Sean

Dear Mullins Family,

Grasping for the appropriate words for me right now is like "grasping oil with the hands." I know that the ache and sorrow in my heart at this moment is nothing compared to what you must be feeling. I am deeply sorry for your great loss.

Like so many other people that you are hearing from, I did not know your son, brother, and uncle personally. I did, however,

have the privilege of meeting him briefly two years ago before one of his concerts after being a fan of his for eight years. I will never forget his warm eyes, hearty laugh, and the emanation of Jesus that was uncontrollably bursting from his very soul.

His words, his music, and his heart have left a deep imprint on my life. No single song causes me to automatically lift my hands in praise to the Lord as quickly as does "With the Wonder". I have rarely experienced the spiritual euphoria I felt when I first heard Side A of his "Litergy" project. I have never, never gone to any other "entertaining" concert which was so focused on the Lord that I felt I was getting a glimpse of what it will be like to worship the Lord and enjoy Him for eternity. I have never heard or read the writings of a person that are consistently so poetic yet straight to the point.

I have learned a lot from Rich and for that I am grateful to the Lord. I am also thankful for the other ways that Lord has used Rich's ministry in my life. I am able to use his songs to witness to the international college students I teach. A song lyric or something he said at a concert or in an interview frequently pops into my head when I need encouragement or a reminder of who God is. In fact, the Lord used a lyric from "Verge of a Miracle" to help me make it through the writing of my Master's thesis which I nearly abandoned. Most notably, Rich's work among Native Americans was the impetus that my husband and I needed to get involved ourselves. We have recently helped to launch a new ministry to Native Americans called Wiconi International. We made the contact with its founder through International Bible Society as a direct result of going to one of Rich's concerts.

I pray that in the minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years ahead the Lord would comfort you and wrap you in His arms of peace that passes understanding. I am one of many people who will line up in Heaven to place a jewel in Rich's crown for pointing me to a closer intimacy with God.

May the Spirit of God fill you all with peace and hope.

Sincerely,
Sharon Bjorck

Rich Mullins was the one music artist that I would say was could touch just about anyone. My unsaved mother was even moved by his picturesque verbal images. He impacted my life through his heartfelt music and inspiring lyrics. He will forever remain, in my mind, the best songwriter and lyricist; yet he was more humble than I could ever aspire to be.

Megan Bell

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family,

We would like to expeeress our deepest sympathy over the loss of your son. He was a very special man whose life touched all who heard his music. Even though Rich is no longer with us, his ministry and music will live in our hearts forever. May God bless you in your healing process.

With Love,
James Dunn and Annika Gall

I just found out. I'm still in shock and I guess its hard to imagine the fact that there will never be a "new" Rich Mullins album. He was a unique talent. I often wonder why things like this happen. I have liked Rich for years. This is a tragic loss in the musical world. God bless his family and may the hope he sang and wrote about continue in all of our lives.

Ken Hancheck

We on earth admired Rich for his values, voice, and beautiful prose. He is now where none of that matters, but will be more treasured than he ever was here. God knows how beautiful his soul is, and even the darker parts which perhaps only Rich knew of are made beautiful and clean by Jesus' grace, mercy and love. Rich spread this message beautifully and touched my soul with it. Nearly every Sunday we sing at least one of his songs in church and it's always accompanied by a deeper, fuller experience of worship and thanksgiving.

Well done, thy good and faithful servant.
Rebecca Harrison

Rich gave his whole life to things eternal. He'll live forever in paradise, and also in the songs he sang that swim in all of our hearts. I'm a more joyful child of God because of the life that he lived, and the Father's love that he showed me.

DQ Fryar

Just after my dad passed on one of his friends came up to me, shook my hand, and said one of the nicest things I've ever heard one human being say about another. He said, "It was a privilege to have known your dad at all". I am not there to shake anyone's hand (more than likely it would probably be a hug instead), but the words of comfort I heard in my grief so long ago I now say to each of you....

It was a privilege to have known Rich at all. The first time I met him was at a Christian music store north of Seattle back in 1988. As I listened to the band playing and his singing in the store, and heard him talk a bit, I became captivated by his laughter, his smile and his wisdom. That day he autographed a cassette for me, with a simple inscription on it - "Be God's". I was only about 18 months clean and sober, and real slow on the

uptake, so it took a long while for that to sink in. I never did get a chance to tell him that I finally figured it out, but I think he knows now...

I went to see him a few more times, whenever he made it out this way. It was always so much fun, because he was so adept at getting us all involved. It was never so much a concert as it was a large worship service. There were always songs to sing, but there was always a story to hear and something to do as well. I remember that something minor almost always went awry, and that he always received these mishaps with a chuckle. Once when he was playing in town, Beaker and Julie were almost ready to become parents....it was all Beaker could do to remember what song they were playing, and Rich had a lot of fun with that. It's moments like those that I'll treasure when I think about him.

I'll miss being able to go see him....all the singing, clapping, stomping and laughing. This just gives me one more thing to look forward to in Heaven. Until then I plan to continue following his advice....to belong to God in every part of my being. In the meantime, know that this is one family out of many that is holding you all up in prayer as we grieve together. God's comfort, grace and peace to you.

In His love,
Paul Simmons

PRAISE GOD for Rich Mullins:) He has truly made my life what it is today. Rich, I've been waiting ever since 1995 to see you again. I cannot wait to see you again - now I get to see you in Heaven!! I love you...

Jaime Henck

Hey Rich's mom, and family. I am so sad about his death. But, joyful he spent awhile here with "us"; that he opened his

heart,poured out his soul,and used the power gift of songwriting and his voice to share his belief in God. It has only been about a year since I was introduced to your son's music. I am so blessed. My 5 year old,loves to sing "Awesome God", she even sings it when he isn't(no radio or CD)-accapella. I just smile and feel joy. Lucky for all of us,even in sworrow,Rich dwells amoung us in his song. Thank-you. Your family is in my thoghts and prayers.

Greg Winterton

My husband and I would like to send our sympathy to the family of Rich. It's like losing someone close to you....Rich had such a passion for the Lord, something each of us longs for. God Bless You and comfort you at this time of loss.

Jane Rowland

I heard today of Rich's home going. I new little of his music until today, our local radio station did a 3 hour tribute to Rich and I was amazed as I came to know the man through his music, the lasting impression the Spirit of God gave through the time of music and calls from those that knew him was that God desired his presents in heven that he might sing to Him face to face.

May God's grace abound to those who knew him dearly, and the peace that passes all understand be poured out on their hearts, Thank you Father for all you've given us through Rich Mullins.

Sincerely,
Steve Allmand

This is part of a song that I've written about rich:

Rich, you gave us freedom
Rich, you gave us wings
You taught us of an awesome God
Maker of all good things
You were everyman
And everyman was you

It was a late September evening
On an old country road
When you went to meet the maker
Of whom you always told
There was nothing anyone could do to keep you from the light
One look into his eyes and you gave up the fight cause he said..

This is my son with whom I'm pleased

Chris O'Neal
Memphis, TN

It was through God's grace that I was introduced to the healing and helping joyful ministry of Rich Mullins. He immediately became the favorite Christian artist of both my wife and myself. How wonderful that God allowed him to reveal his heart and love through his music and lyrics.

We heard the news of Rich's passing on our way to church Sunday morning, and were left shocked and in despair. We can certainly understand our Lord desiring that Rich come home now. He will be greatly missed by those of us left to carry on.

We pray that our God of comfort will release His love and healing spirit upon his family, friends and all those that miss him already. Rich had the unique ability to instantly become a friend and inspiration through his God given talent.

Hold me, Jesus. I know You are holding Rich tonight.

Pat Anf

i had the incredible opportunity of meeting rich mullins last year at senseney music in wichita. at first he didn't want to admit to being himself; such a humble man. i can't even begin to describe the shock i felt upon hearing the news. it was almost like your best friend in the world dying. there have been so many nights when i fell asleep listening to his album "songs". his words have been a comfort, and will continue to be even though he is gone. it's hard to be sad when it was obvious that this was never his home. but he is home now, and it does break my heart to say goodbye. we love you rich, and we praise you God for giving us the pleasure of knowing such a man!!

B Dunder

I feel an incredible sense of loss and have ever since I heard the news about Rich Mullins on Saturday. I'm relatively new in my Christian walk (three years) and it was contemporary Christian music that ministered to me and got me started. Of all the contemporary Christian artists, Rich Mullins' put words to my human struggles and looked into my soul. I felt he was a kindred spirit. His ministry was extremely powerful and his music never failed (fails) to help me feel the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I know he is in a better place and that his was truly a homecoming....but my heart hurts with my human loss. My condolences to his family and friends, who feel the loss in an even more intensely personal way than we ever could.

Becky Burks

Since hearing late Saturday night of Rich's unthinkable passing, only a sense of great loss and mourning has filled my mind and

heart, as I try to see the good in it all.

Though having never met Rich personally or seen him in concert, I have felt a kindred spirit in his works -- as I'm sure many Christian singers and songwriters have felt in his music and lyrics. Maybe it is his recurrent theme of the Christian pilgrimage through this foreign soil, or the conviction of his steadfast faith in God's awesome power and love, or maybe just his fearlessness of taking risks for the Kingdom of God and His work.

Within Rich's music I have sensed the handiwork of a great individual with a unique gift from God. Though only forty-one at his passing, he, time after time, revealed God's wonderful attributes through a truly American (dare I say, Hoosier) appreciation of nature, passion, and true grit -- things simply not abundant in today's Christian music -- thereby making God's love and grandeur more real and magnified to me.

I sensed that Rich truly loved and feared God and wanted to become more like Jesus, perhaps to the point of leaving behind the "rabble with their thumb-worn creeds, their large professions and their little deeds," to be different and reach out. Rich's life was being invested in the hearts of young people who needed to feel someone really cared for them; he knew what his "talents" were and how to get the greatest return on them.

Maybe the great loss I'm feeling is that a part of my soul is gone. Knowing a kindred spirit is now no longer with us can be a cause of despair -- it's almost like God's voice in the world is becoming an echo. Oh, I long for someone to take up Rich's mantle and continue with his anointing and revelation! It seems that forty-one is so young -- I must remind myself that life is just a vapor, however, and that it will vanish away -- and only what we do for Christ will last. Therefore, I must consider Rich to be the victor, even through these tragic circumstances. My wife and I have cried and prayed -- probably more for our own emotional loss than anything -- having been in the Christian music ministry for most of our lives.

So if anyone wants to know if Rich affected us out here in

California, please know that we also have been blessed and touched by the spirit, lyrics, and music of Rich's ministry. Thank you for reading this letter.

Darrell Hoover

I will continue praying for the family of Rich Mullins. He was an awesome singer. As being a senior in High School, his songs sure made an impact in my life. They gave my encouragement to face hard times and struggles with my head faced toward God. I will also keep in prayer Mitch McVicker and his family. I am so excited that Rich Mullins is home in heaven with our wonderful heavenly father. Again, I will keep them in my prayers.

In Christ,
Christina

My heart grieves at the loss of someone that has meant so much to my life. I have listened to his music, read his words and found God. I know that Rich would give all the credit to God, but I believe that God would certainly give alot of credit back to Rich for being the reflection of God himself. Rich never claimed to be perfect and perhaps that one of the many things that made him so special to us. I pray for his family that they shall have peace and I pray for Mitch that God will grant him a quick recovery. I know that I am selfish for my grief because Rich is so happy. I looked out at the stars tonight and the tears mingled with my laughter trying to imagine Rich singing and laughing and our Almighty Lord singing and laughing right along with him. Can you imagine the joy that is in Rich's heart right now?! He gave us joy and love here while he could and I pray that all of us follow his lead to continue the work God gave him to spread that joy and love throughout this world. Thank you Lord for sharing a glimpse of Heaven with us through your son and our Christian brother Rich Mullins. We thank you in advance for Mitch's recovery and we

praise your name for the blessings you have given us through the lives of these two very special people.

Yvonna

Brothers and sisters in Australia, too, have been touched by Rich's death. We pray God's all-embracing comfort for you, his family. To Rich's mother - thanks for raising this man the way you must have.

His willingness to yield himself so totally to his Lord, and use - for others' benefit - the tremendous God-given gifts within him have certainly left the legacy he longed for.

With thanks and love,
from the Sheehy Family,
Darwin, Australia

Rich Mullins impacted my life in many ways, but mostly through example. And it was from afar- I never met him here in the "Land of Our Sojourn", but I didn't have to. I'll thank him when I also make it to our true home. "...when I look back on the stars, it'll be like a candlelight in Central Park, and it won't break my heart to say goodbye." (Elijah) I was reminded though these lyrics how much the "things of earth will grow strangely dim in the Light of His glory and Grace" (from the classic "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"). Everything here is insignificant except that we learn to be a mirror to reflect our God. That concept, which Mullins stated in a clear way that expresses what I wanted to say but never could, is something I remind myself of daily. A candle in the midst of central park.... ths word is all small stuff.

christy mills

Rich's music was an inspiration to me. you have nothing to be ashamed of. he lived his life for the Lord and did what God wanted him to do. I thank God for giving him to us for the time that he did. I will always remember his music and try to continue the legacy that he left behind.

Jared Blankenship

Rich Mullins was and probably always will be my favorite artist. His music transcended the musical barriers that so many of us put up. It defied description, and demanded attention. His love for both God and people were so evident in the songs he wrote, the things he did, and the way he lived his life. I had the pleasure of attending a concert a couple years ago in Salem, OR. It was just Rich and Beaker on piano and guitar (with the occasional dulcimer :) It was the most profound, powerful, and all around best concert that I have ever attended. He started at 7 and didn't stop talking and singing until well after 10:00, and it was free.

I have taken many cues from Rich's songwriting, and have learned much about what it is to follow your heart in music. He touched so many, and he will be sorely missed. His CD's will all be in the changer for at least the next month (not that they weren't already). And while he is better off, there will forever be an empty space in my CD wallet, always open and waiting for the next release. God Bless. I wrote this song about 6 or 7 years ago, and if anyone happens to read this, and doesn't have what Rich had.... Jesus....

look around "It's Too Real to be Unknown" -- I dedicate it to Rich.

With the moon casting its shimmer over the mountains far below
In a bath of borrowed sunshine, and the high clouds all aglow.
As I stand beneath the stars struck with awe at all I see,
These moments seem so fleeting, but I know why I believe.

When the stars all point their light toward this world that's not
my home,
The light in one was lit for me, and I know I'm not alone,
And the wind is whisper perfect as it wraps around the trees
There is someone all around me watching, and I know why I believe.

-Chorus-

In the hand that holds the dust of man, and this green earth like
a globe;
There is a power that can conquer men, or roll away a stone.
It makes mice out of the mighty, yet His touch can calm your soul.
And I know why I believe, it's too real to be unknown.

With the clouds casting their shadow over the days that lie ahead
I just can't seem to find a reason, and it seems easy to play
dead.

As I sit and am surrounded from the air and land and sea,
I fold my hands and feel the armor, and I know why I believe.

When they point their accusations toward this Rock I'm standing
on,
And it started early yesterday, now it's tomorrow dawn.
And the man in me just wants to stop, and pretend it's all a
dream.
But I have been made in the image, and I know why I believe.

(CHORUS)

And the God who breathed the universe is the God who made the
seed,
Great and small is all the same looking up from on your knees.

In the hand that made dust into a man, and holds this green earth
like a globe,
There is a power that can conquer men, and it rolled away a stone.
It can make mice out of the mighty, yet His touch can calm your
soul.
And I know why I believe, it's too real to be unknown.

Thanks for everything Rich, see you soon.

Jon

It was so sad to hear of Rich's death. Being that I have a strong conviction for the Lord AND a great passion for music, his ministry that he gave to all of us through his music will never be forgotten. I have a feeling that even in Heaven, he is singing his praises to God...loud and clear....strong and proud.

Adrienne Zimmern

Rich will be sorely missed on earth. His death is a great shock to us. But he told us it was coming. He explained it in many of his songs, especially "Elijah." He has greatly ministered to us all. I myself was first touched by Rich's lyrics as Amy Grant sang "Doubly Good" as I, then an unbeliever, wanted to end my miserable life. Those lyrics gave me some hope to not commit suicide many times. Since Rich has taught me to praise God, to love his creations, to enjoy the life Jesus secured for me, and to long to be with the Father. All blessings and love to his family, friends, and fans. Thank you Mrs. Mullins and God for bringing him to this world and giving him the message that he shared with us.

William Smithfield

i am very saddened at this impacting loss....however am rejoiceful...i saw Rich perform at CIY in Bethany, OK. and it was the greatest praise i have ever witnessed...our prayers should be with Mitch now...as Rich is at rest and at peace in the arms of Jesus.

Lac

Lord, Thank you for blessing us with Rich and his music! Be with those he leaves behind...put your arms around them and let them feel your love! May his music on earth forever be a legacy of how much you truly loved and blessed him and those around him. I look forward to hearing him sing again...when I get to Heaven! AMEN

K Debardela

"Sorrow is better than laughter, for when a face is sad, a heart may be happy." --Ecclesiastes 7:3

As I write this, I am still in shock over the news of the sudden tragic loss of a great man. I would like to remember Rich Mullins, not for who he was, for I know he wouldn't want that, but for what he did.

As a teenager growing up in the midwest, I faced a lot of the same problems that every teenager does - low self esteem, doubt, wondering who I was and how I fit in and what I was supposed to be. Sometimes I would lie awake at night feeling hurt and confused and angry at God, wondering just what He wanted from me.

Fortunately, at that time (the early '80's) contemporary Christian music was beginning to be more and more popular, and many nights I drifted off to sleep to the sounds of Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Bryan Duncan, WhiteHeart and many others. One of my favorite songs (I had a lot of favorites!) was Elijah, by a songwriter turned singer named Rich Mullins.

"When I leave I wanna go out like Elijah, with a whirlwind to fuel my chariot of fire. And when I look back on the stars, it'll be like a candlelight in Central Park, and it won't break my heart to say goodbye^+"

Although I never had the chance to meet him personally, as I did

other artists, Rich touched my life many times in the years to follow. I was able to see him play in concert several times, and neither his enormous God given talent - he didn't just write songs and play music, he painted

pictures with them- nor the fact that he gave it all back to God, escaped me. My younger sister, after coming home from a Christian camp, was bubbling with excitement over the way someone as famous as Rich Mullins had sat down and eaten lunch with her and her friends, and played soccer with some of the others. "He was just like one of the guys!" she said.

Indeed, almost every time you heard someone say more than a sentence or two about him, some form of the word "humble" was bound to come up. His devotion to those in less fortunate circumstances was remarkable. In a world where big talent is usually equated with big dollars, he stood out as a man of simple means. He chose to build up treasures in heaven rather than a worldly purse, freely sharing the love of Christ with everyone he came into contact with.

Reflecting on the life of this simple man, I realize that I could be doing so much more with what God has given me. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us, so we should live each day as though it were our last. Just like Elisha in days of old, my prayer is that God will give me a double portion of Rich's spirit. While I am saddened by our loss, I rejoice in knowing that someday I will meet him and we will join together in singing praises to our King! I am confident that there is no place that he'd rather be than where he is now.

In the meantime, I, like countless others, am left with a glow in my heart from the legacy of his ministry in my life. Funny, but it seems to be a lot like the glow of a certain chariot...

Shawn A. Key
Ballwin, MO

Dear Rich's family

I will miss Brother Richard and I know that his music has touched my life. I pray that this his music will touch the unsaved. The song "Our God is an Awsome God." will always be in my heart. I pray for his family and friends at this time. From one Richard to another Richard, I will try to carry on the Creed.

Your Brother in the Lord
Richard Thompson.

Whenever I listened to Rich's CD's I always played the volumn as loud as I could stand it. His music, the words, the meaning and the annointing flowed from every song.

As many have said his life touched so many, but as a Pastor I looked to his music in those times I needed to hear words of encouragment and strength.

I cannot know your total pain, however we all sense deeply a great loss. And now all of Heaven can hear his new lyrics daily. Our prayers are with you. Lord Bless

Pastor Mark DiGirolamo & Family
Visalia California

I have only been listening to Rich Mullins' music for less than a year, but I too feel like I knew this man, like he was an old friend. I too loved him and grieve the loss his death represents. I have never seen him in concert and hoped he would come to California, but figured I could always see him in heaven! Now I will. His music means alot to me. I know God took him because, in some Heavenly way, his work here was finished. Looking at recent pictures I can see a tiredness... My four year old always asks me about the "Face of Love" in Let Mercy Lead and I tell him

that that is God. Tonight he asked if the Face of Love gave Rich Mullins the songs he sings. I said yes. I told him that Rich Mullins was looking at the Face of Love RIGHT NOW!! Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

EGM

I've seen Rich Mullins twice...First at Jesus Northwest in Vancouver, Wa.(Summer of 1992) and in Portland, Oregon (October of 1995). His music touched my life and continues to do so. I am a fatal traffic accident investigator and know first hand the impact on families and friends of car crash victims. I have also recently lost a close friend to a car accident. With both of these losses I know that God has used their lives to bring others close to Him and help believers with their own faith. God blessed us with Rich and will continue to use his music for His glory.

Monte Reiser
Portland, Oregon

i regret i never had the chance to see rich in concert. however, i still feel like i knew him. his vulnerability in his music made such an impact upon my personal relationship with God. i wish i had the opportunity to personally thank rich for his music and more importantly his life. i am comforted to know that he is with his Heavenly Father, praising Him right now with all the angels. He was ready. "...and it won't break my heart to say good-bye."-Elijah Thank You, Rich.

a fellow ragamuffin,
Daniel Christian Scott

The world has surely lost one of the greats in Christian music

this past week. I remember how alive and full of God Rich was at our local concert promoting "Awesome God". Afterwords, I went up and gave in a fish pin, and told him how much he meant to everyone here. And that he was truly one of God fishmen in this time. Will miss you Rich, but we are shouting for Joy and your new home today.

Carol,
Central Illinois

Dear Family members,

I hope you see this. In Rich's office hangs a needlepoint of a prayer of Saint Francis of Assissi. My wife did this and sent it to Rich from our family. He didn't know who sent it he told us a few weeks ago in Plymouth MI. Rich in one of his concerts encouraged us to Love our parents and brothers and sisters. My Father had not spoken to me for a long time. Shortly after this concert I went to my father and told him I needed him and I loved him. I was affraid he would totally reject me but he did not and now we have a relationship. The song Peace and the concert afew years back when Rich encouraged us to love one another played a big role in my getting my father back. God First of all deserves the praise but Rich was used by him to help me to take the first step toward peace. I have my father and Rich is with his father. I pray that his family would be comforted by the loving hands of our Heavenly Father who lost a Son at a young age also.

Jerry A. Fleming

How can one really express, how they feel at the loss of someone who truly was a minister of God through the words and melody of his music. Rich's music always brought a message of hope in a God that though I love Him with all my heart I do not always understand, and lifted me to the very gates of heaven in praise and worship. He struggled to find peace in the problems of this

troubled world is over, while we must go on. Rich, there is wound in my heart because of this world having lost you.

Kathryn Oliver

I have never been to a concert of Rich's, but at a camp I worked at for a couple of summers, we would always sing "Awesome God" on the bus ride down the mountain from the camp to where the parents would pick up their children. It always brought tears to my eyes to hear the campers lifting their voices in praise to God. I think Rich Mullins would have been glad to know that the gift God gave Him helped others grow closer to the Awesome God of the Universe.

Bruce Copeland

A week ago Saturday (Sept. 13), I was driving before dawn toward the park for my usual weekend run, listening to Rich as usual. For some reason, as "Elijah" played, I became overcome with emotion and started weeping with joy and thanksgiving at the promise of heaven. I had no idea why the tears came so freely; I don't cry easily. Now, I can't help but wonder about the timing of those tears. I thank the Lord for Rich, for his music, for his poetry, and I rejoice that he has gone out with that whirlwind to fuel his chariot of fire into the promise of heaven.

Steve Brickner

At many times in my life I have been touched by and encouraged by the songs of Rich Mullins. "If I sing, let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs...But if I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his home!!" Praise God for bringing us this man who wrote songs that have brought so many of us closer to

God...and praise God for bringing Rich to the home he so passionately longed for. Our God truly is AN AWSOME GOD!!!

chad timmons

To Rich's Family -

It was a small church in Houston in the summer of 1991, that I first started to understand the glory of God through Rich. He had such a way of expressing HIS message though music ministry. I will never forget that night, nor will I ever forget your son. My father died on the 17th and it was the words of Rich's music which I played at his reception.

My prayers are with all of you. Praise God for eternal LIFE!
Don Edwards

We were first introduced to Rich Mullins when he and Beaker performed at the Moody Bible Institute Junior/Senior Banquet in 1992. We were newly engaged at that time, and as our relationship grew, our love for Rich's music also blossomed from that night on. As musicians ourselves, we appreciated Rich's talent (we deemed him a "genius" especially after his Liturgy & Legacy album), but more importantly we appreciated his candor in his lyrics and his unpretentious character. It was obvious to us from the start that he didn't care about putting on a show or doing what others expected of him; in fact, when we were all dressed up at our banquet, he was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt!

We jumped at any opportunity we had to see him in concert. We felt privileged to be part of the crowd that helped celebrate his 40th birthday at the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago in '95. And then most recently on August 16 we made a two-hour trek through a torrential downpour to see him perform, along with Mitch McVicker and This Train, at the Crystal Lake EV Free Church. (As we were driving through the storm we kept saying to each other that we

would never drive through that kind of weather for anyone else but Rich Mullins!) We came away from the concert refreshed and invigorated with a new passion to let the love and grace of God permeate every area of our life as it seemed to with Rich. He seemed so "real" (even though he admitted that night that he was suffering from major sleep deprivation from the tour), and we long to follow his example and be real in our walk with Christ. We count it a great blessing and privilege that the Lord allowed us to be at Rich's last concert.

Needless to say we were deeply saddened by the news of his death. Funny how we didn't know him personally but felt as though we did. We feel like we have lost a friend, and we have lost the opportunity to hear any new songs from his pen. But we rejoice that he now knows exactly what he sang about, and he is now in the presence of our Awesome God. We can't wait to meet him in heaven!

Our prayers and love go out to Rich's family and friends at this time. We hope this is an encouragement to you.

In Christ,

Gerald and Beth Longjohn
Bolingbrook, Illinois

It's hard to describe what I'm feeling--a great loss, saddened for a man I never new personally, yet proud and rejoiceful that he is now singing to his Awesome God. He will be missed greatly here, but what a reunion we can all look forward to soon!

Shelly

Dear Neva and your family,

We were so sorry to hear about the passing of your son, Rich. We

pray that God would comfort you and give you peace during this time and the days to come.

My husband and I saw him in concert here in Oregon several years ago. We felt the presence of God during this time. We are so glad that he shared his passion for God with us.

We enjoy his music. His lyrics were simple yet profound. Our favorite song is "Awesome God", and we can't wait to sing it with him in heaven.

Our prayers,
John and Holly Mutch
Psalms 23

I never met Rich Mullins. Yet, I sobbed like a baby when I heard the news of his death. My first interest in his music began with the song "Awesome God". I bought the album with that song on it and found my soul touched in a way no other "entertainer" ever had done before. His work touched me in untold countless ways since I bought that first album. I have bought every one since then. I found myself in his music. I came to find my love of God and His creation expressed so eloquently by his songs. I felt a true love for Jesus expressed in Rich's music. I was inspired and encouraged and comforted by his work. Although I never did meet him I felt as though he were one of my closest friends. I felt a great sense of loss when I heard the news. Yet I also felt joy for Rich knowing that he is now face to face with the God he served and glorified for so many years. I recall the words of one his songs "Elijah":

And now that it's done
If they dressed me like a pauper
Or if they dined me like a prince
If they lay me with my fathers
Or if my ashes scatter on the wind
I don't care

When I leave I want to go out like Elijah

With a whirlwind to fuel my chariot of fire
And when I look back on the stars
It'll be like a candlelight in Central Park

And it won't break my heart to say good-bye -- How relevant and appropriate. My prayers do not go up for Rich, he is in hands God and needs no more prayers. I pray for those left behind. For those like me who feel such a loss, never to here another new song from this wonderful child of God. My prayers go up for those who did know him; friends and family. Also my prayers go up for Mitch McVicker as he lay in a coma. May he be touched by the hand of God, and healed or taken to be with Rich and the Lord. I'll miss you Rich though I never knew you. I'll not forget you with such rich legacy as you have left. God Bless

Paul L. Jensen

Requiem for the living:

Don't weep for me when I'm gone, those who knew me know full well, that in love and in laughter, I lived as a prince. And in my heart of hearts, I served my calling. Waiting for this time to come, when I would see MY KING!!! Enjoy heaven while we wait to meet you again...

Craig Makowski

When I heard that Rich was coming to a church in the middle of nowhere in my hometown - Chattanooga - it was in 1993. It was the year after my brother and I had fallen in love with his music. I immediately got my mom to buy tickets for us. It was my brother, my dad and myself. The concert was general admission so we had to wait in line for the doors to open, and while we were waiting there, Rich and Beaker drove up in his jeep and went in the building. My jaw dropped. I walked over to the jeep and his golden retriever was sitting in the back seat - I got to pet Rich

Mullins' dog!! :)

Anyway, the concert was absolutely indescribable. He came out in the famous bare feet and that in itself was enough witness for me. It was as if he was saying "I'm not here to impress anybody. I'm just here to sing praise to the Lord." I didn't know that many songs b/c I only had "... Vol 1", but starting that next day, my collection grew to 9 albums. My dad was not that enthusiastic about going to the concert but when we got home, and even to this day, he wants to listen to Rich all the time! After the concert was over, I was standing outside the door hoping to get one of the band members' signature, not even dreaming that I would meet Rich. All of a sudden, he just walked out of the door and we were standing face to face. I shook his hand and told him how much I adored his music. My brother did a lot of talking too. I will treasure that day as long as I live.

Lindsay Walker

I can't believe he's gone! I know he's happier than he's ever been... that he's with the very Christ he sang of. That should be consolation enough. But it's not... not right now. I guess this is where faith comes in...

Michael

My heart goes out to you and your family. Rich was simply amazing in his ability to grasp heaven's secrets and God's complexities and put them to song. Even though I only got the unforgettable chances of speaking with him twice during his short lifetime, I can honestly say that he's been patiently waiting for God to call him home for a long time. Sadly, for us, that has happened too quickly. Luckily, for him, God's "music is already falling on" his ears. God be with you during this time of loss, but just remember that we'll see him again someday. Maybe he'll be putting on a concert once again!

Peace of Christ to you,
Carey Allen

Dear Family of Rich Mullins,

My name is Marie Merton. I am a college student in San Jose, CA. I have listened to the beautiful work of our brother, Rich Mullins, for many years now. I have always been very blessed by it. As a special treat for my 26th birthday, I went to see him in concert here in San Jose. It was one of the highlights of my life. He was a very talented man and His love for the Lord and the precious people he worked with on the reservation shown brightly to all in the auditorium that night. I know he is loved and will be missed.

I pray that at this time you will find peace. Sometimes we do not understand the Lord's timing, but we are instructed to trust him - with good reason. He sees the beginning from the end and He has a special reason for taking Rich home. His ways are higher than our ways, so we do not have to carry the burden of "why" around with us.

The Lord bless and keep you through this time of sorrow. My prayers are with you.

Love in Christ,
Marie Merton

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
--Phil. 4:7

Rich Mullins was one of the most genuine, honest and caring men I ever had the pleasure of knowing. He joined our church in Wichita

in 1988 and made a big impact on my life while there. His life and music were so inspiring and full of integrity that I couldn't help but have the utmost respect for this down-to-earth Indiana boy.

In 1989, I had the pleasure of traveling to the east coast and New England with Rich. I remember him driving the 15-passenger van we were in through Manhattan traffic, I remember sitting behind him in a raft on the dangerous New River in West Virginia (he was wearing a Batman t-shirt), I remember he and I driving through rural upstate New York discussing U2's "Rattle and Hum", I also remember him letting me borrow a tong drum to learn to play. Those are just a few of the many memories I will cherish of my time knowing this Godly man. What was weird was on Sunday morning, I broke down and had to walk 3 miles back home. While I was walking and thinking I recalled the time that same 15-passenger van broke down in rural New Hampshire and Rich got out in the middle of the night to go get help. 10 minutes later I'm back home and my Mom calls to tell me the bad news. I was shocked at first, but it wasn't till today that it really hit me. I haven't cried like that for sometime. I will truly miss this wonderful man of God!

Andrew Griffin

My prayers are for Rich's family and for the speedy recovery of Mitch. His music has and will always enrich my life by bringing me closer to our Lord. I thank God for using Rich to bless so many people. And I am looking forward to sitting and singing with him when I go home, too.

Love in Christ,
Lynne

When I heard the news, My heart broke and I literally wept. His ministry has touched my life, challenged me to walk closer to my

God, and brought me a sense of peace in times of struggle. His music like his life painted a picture of Christ to me that I will forever be grateful for. The loss I feel is great and If his ministry touched my heart so greatly, I can't imagine what his family & loved ones must be feeling. I will be praying for God to comfort them in a way only He can. What a sad loss for the world! He will be missed! But I know that Rich is with Jesus. He has finished the race and no doubt has heard, "well done!"

M. Loupe

Our prayers go out to his family. We thank them for providing a great talent to be used for the Lord and to bring joy to all those that listened.

Praise God for your son and brother. As one of His stewards, Rich's music has and will continue to touch the lives of thousands for years to come. Though nothing I can write will help heal your pain, I pray that God will comfort you in such an unexpected loss. Mrs. Mullins, thank you for teaching Rich the ways of the Lord, so he could hear His call and minister to so many kids. Our prayers are going out for you, Marshall, and Marshall's family in this time. I wish I could take away your pain...

Tim Clark

As a minister of the Gospel & fellow Christian, I am both saddened & joyous about the passing of our brother in Christ, Rich Mullins. He served his Master well & now has his Crown of Glory & resting in his Master's arms safe & sound. As we say in The Salvation Army, he has been Promoted to Glory! God bless you Rich!

FCT

My prayers and thoughts go with you at the death of your son. He was an extraordinary man who seemed to let God lead him, and he inspired me in ways few others have. His songs and his example will always be an inspiration to me. He must be so thrilled to be in heaven now. It is my prayer that God will comfort you during this time and that you would be proud of the legacy that Rich leaves behind.

God Bless You,
Joel Harreld

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Tuesday, September 23, 1997

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I was a new listener to Christian Radio, when I heard "Calling out Your Name" for the first time. I was stunned by the beauty and imagery in the music; I'd never heard anything like it on any secular top-40 station. Since then I've bought all Rich's records and been to four concerts, including New Year's Eve 1996, where both my wife and I were moved to tears. This guy was special; Christian music has lost a gifted artist, and we have all lost a model for a humble life lived with integrity. My faith was deepened by his music and his life; and I resolve it will be strengthened further by his death.

Leah Heber

Like many others, I only knew Rich through his music and concerts. I feel I've been blessed to have seen him three times. There was no other artist quite like Rich. From his sincere humility on stage to his unassuming rapport with the audiences during and after performances, he's affected many lives. I've been drawn in,

moved, and challenged by his works and will surely continue to be every time I visit them. It truly is our loss for the time being but I'm convinced it's Heaven's gain - something we'll all get the chance to appreciate in the future. God Bless and thanks for posting the tribute - offering a place for those like me to say goodbye for now to Rich.

Jim Butler

I sense that Rich is playing now; Playing for the one he loved most. Playing for the one that could wait no longer for a "live" performance. Thank you Father for the 42 years you gave us with Rich.

Hubert Meadows

In Loving Memory Of Rich Mullins

Do not think of me as deceased and gone,
think of me in God's light where I do carry on.
Your tears of sadness should be short,
I'm peacefully at rest in a heavenly resort.

The mourning process is to help you heal,
to recognize and face the fear you feel.
Conquer the ego's attempts to sway,
Your memories of joy for me today.

God needed me sooner than we all expected,
I feel honored and loved that I was elected.
Sometimes it is not for us to understand,
it is all part of God's eternal plan.

Jennifer Schmidutz

May this poem bring his mother and family peace and love.

To the family of Rich Mullins,

As a student at Philadelphia College of Bible in Langhorne, PA, I would like to extend our sympathies to you. We were blessed to have Rich in our midst this past year in concert. Many of us enjoyed his passion for the Lord and his love for music and people. I think Rich saw these things as being intricately intertwined. God loves people and one of the ways he ministers to them is through beautiful music. We thank God for giving Rich to us, even if the time we shared was less than what we would have hoped. God is in control, however, and His love is perfect. Tonight I know that God is enjoying Rich's presence, and vice versa. Rich is finally where the music is flawless and the praise songs are endless. And, as my friend Shonna mentioned, "The song 'Awesome God' must sound incredible up there."

With our prayers for you and all those who Rich loved,
Meghan Batchelder
PCB student

My mom always had christian music playing when I was growing up, and Rich was one of them. He was one of a kind in the christian music field. He will be greatly missed here in this world, but I know when we walk into the gates of HEAVEN, he will be there singing like never before, greeting all of us. I know that he is watching over us and his family seeing the out pour of love we all have for a man we didn't know, but through his wonderful music to witness to many first time believers. I pray for Rich, and his family, and for his friend Mitch. The Pacific Northwest will miss him at JESUS NORTHWEST. You could see JESUS through this man and his music. Rich Mullins will be greatly missed here on earth and I can't wait till I can see him again in HEAVEN with the concert of his life, singing all his praises to the LORD ON HIGH, just as

he is doing right now. We love and miss you very much. My heart and prayers for his family and close friends.

Duke

I hope we can celebrate his life and his mission to bring the good news of eternal life to us all!

Jemelene Wilson

Having seen rich Mullins only once, in the Bother's Keeper tour, I can honestly say, that next to Keith Green, Rich's music was the most prolific, the most poetic, the most simple, yet Godly music I ever heard. I don't think anyone else's songs have ever meant so much to me, nor have anyone else's songs stuck in my mind quite so well.

Rich is rejoicing with Jesus, sharing his songs with the one He served so well. Our god is still an awesome God.

Laura Shapiro

I didn't know Rich Mullins personally, but some of his music has really blessed my soul. My son sang his song "Here in America" at a public school concert and the kids loved it. I cried today as I heard "My God is an Awesome God" on the radio. I sang along with it amongst the tears because it's hard to understand why this has happened and yet our God is awesome and someday we will see a more total picture. My children and I were involved in an auto accident this summer and we are still not over it emotionally. We are praying for Rich's family and friends. We will pray that others may come to know the Savior through this tragedy somehow. We are also praying for his friend, Mitch, who is still in the hospital.

Sincerely,
Theresa

I don't exactly know what to say... My feelings seem to be beyond words right now. How did Rich write out his feelings so well all these years? Always knowing the right words to sing to encourage, convict, motivate, and move me to worship.

I always felt close to Rich, even though I've only met him a few times, and spent less than two hours actually talking to him. He had a special gift of making people feel welcome, like friends. He was such a source of strength to me - when I feel like honesty is not acceptable in church... So honest, so open - if we learn anything from his life, I think we need to learn honesty. It's not easy, it's not painless... but it's what we need.

In concert about a month ago Rich recounted a strange story about his trip to Ireland... Sailors there would wear hand-sewn sweaters made for them by their wives. Apparently, fish don't eat wool, so if the sailor was shipwrecked, when their bodies washed up on shore the wives could identify their husbands by their sweaters. He followed this story with "I am Ready For The Storm". Later in the show, he said this. "Someday, we'll leave this earth. Our bodies will be washed away by that jordan river. We'll wash up on the shores of heaven, beaten, bruised, disfigured - a real mess. The angels will look and say, "what is this?? Let's clean this up." Then Jesus will come running out, and cry "Wait!! Don't take that one away! That one is one of mine!" The angels will say, "How can you tell?", and Jesus will reply, "Look at his sweater... I made that for him when I died upon the cross. He belongs to me."

I'll see you in heaven Rich, wearing your Irish sweater. You have my heart.

~ Sean P. Tompkins ~

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt sympathy. Rich Mullins was my favorite song writer. He spoke to my faith, my soul and my heart. He blessed me countless times with his music. I can't believe he's gone. I am filled with sadness. He was a great person and will be greatly missed.

"And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"

Sincerely,
Jeff Davis
Virginia Beach, Virginia

I've been blessed by reading what everyone had to say about Rich. I have always thought of him as my own personal song writer. I don't know how anyone could have related to his music more than I have. I got to meet him once. I shook his hand and told him how much I appreciated his music. I'm really glad I got to do that. I also wrote him a letter telling him in more detail the influence he has had on my life, but I never mailed it. Now those words will have to wait until I see him in the New Jerusalem. I don't think it will be very long, but it will be a painful and lonely wait. You don't ever get over losing someone you care about. Rich was a friend to us. Even though he didn't know many of us, we knew him. We knew him well because he let us know him. We have one more reason to look forward to heaven now. I can't wait. Don't let anyone fool you into thinking that this life is anything. This is an "in your face" reminder that the reality and the eternity is on the other side. Rich is there! His eternity has begun, and ours is coming soon. Ask him now if it was worth it to give so much to the Lord.

Z Wadsworth

Rich was the first concert our then young children ever attended. They both loved the smiling man who so clearly showed them his love of God. They still do. My husband and I considered Rich, along with Twila Paris to be the two best Christian songwriters around. Rich created poetry that touched the heart and made you think about it. I am glad that Rich did get his chance to minister to the Navajo. Besides our prayers for his family and friends, we're also praying that those he met during this missionary time will be further drawn to God by Rich's death.

Tod Beebe

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family,

I don't know if you'll remember me; I went to Northeastern with David our senior year; I didn't get to really start to know him until the last part of our year. I was blessed enough to be able to walk down the aisle with him, though - I still have the pictures to prove it. :) And through my closer friendship with our mutual friends, I became aware of Rich's music.

From the first, Rich had a quality to his music that caught my attention. I love music, and I grew up Christian. I sure have been blessed in that way! Rich's lyrics were so REAL, so much "I can show you what I've learned! God loves us!" He knew how to open up the heart of God in a few phrases, to make one think about what he was saying without sounding preachy. One of MY favorite songs has always been Screendoor; he said it all in just two verses!!!!

So, to skip a few years, I watched Rich's career with interest, and was always the first to pick up his newest CD, no matter where I lived. I had moved to El Paso right after graduation from high school; talk about BLESSED! I got to see Rich in concert several times while I was there, and even got to be in a Bible study he did before one show. And I got to chat with him a little. Not very much, but enough to know he was as real as his music.

Now, to more current times. My husband and I met on America Online, and Ken was a Bahai at the time we met. He got saved February 7, 1996, and we were married that September. Ken first heard Rich's music on our trip to Oregon to move me out after we got engaged; I was in Richmond, IN, when we met! :) Ken fell in love with Rich's music; he couldn't listen to enough of it!!!! We decided to start selling Rich's music in our store - we own a gift & music store in Florence, OR - and Ken just couldn't play it enough. Rich is the first artist he'll recommend to someone, and the SONGS album gets played all the time.

My sister in Indiana called me Saturday afternoon; she told me she had bad news, and wouldn't tell me until I was sitting down. When she told me Rich had died, I went into shock; I told her I had to go get Ken from the store and tell him, and we'd call her back. Ken took it very hard; in his words, "It's like I lost a really good friend I've never met. He was there from the beginning of this spiritual journey with me, and now he's gone. It's so hard to believe... ." And all day Sunday was Rich Mullins Memorial Day at the store. Tonight I started reading everything the others had to say to you and each other. Now, I can't stop crying; Rich truly touched my life, and the lives of thousands of others.

Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. It IS a comfort to know that Rich is with our Father; I can hardly wait to get Home and hear him in person again! If you think of anything we can ever do for you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

God bless you.
Love and prayers,
Ken and Lori (Rhoda)

PO Box 2633
Florence, OR 97439

I've just been kinda numb and in shock all day and crying at times. It's so hard to believe, because it didn't seem like it

was time for him to go, he was 110% sold out to Christ. But if we know Jesus, we'll get to see him again, and I'm sure all of Heaven is jamming right now to his music, yet he will be so sorely missed here on Earth. But remember that if you know the Lord, this world isn't your home, as was once written long ago in song.

As for me, I got to meet him once in concert at Fallfest, an annual joint project of all of the student ministry groups at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, back in September of 1990. It was just like being in the presence of God, and his song "Awesome God", always taught me to never worry about what's bugging me, for my God is bigger than any problem I have.

We need to pray for Rich's family, as I'm sure they're not coping with this very well right now. Last I heard, Mitch McVicker was still in critical condition, and he and his family need our prayers. Also, even though, to my knowledge, this hasn't been mentioned on here, I think we need to pray for the truck driver, as I'm sure he's feeling a lot of guilt and emotional pain right about now and that he would come to know the Lord if he hasn't already, and that he'd be able to just give this whole incident to God.

Goodbye, Rich. I know you're enjoying Heaven right now, but we'll miss you here on Earth. We'll see you sometime, someday...

Fred McKinney

To the family of Rich Mullins:

I was so saddened to hear of Rich's tragic death. His music meant a lot to me. My best friend Kelly first introduced me to his music several years ago, when we saw him in concert in Rockford, IL. I loved the soothing rhythms and gentle, healing lyrics. I guess my personal favorites would have to be Awesome God and Hold Me, Jesus. I'm sure Jesus is holding Rich right now.

At least you can take comfort in the fact that his musical ability

has touched so many lives, and will continue to affect us all. His legacy will live on. I left to come out to Phoenix, AZ, the day after his last concert in Rockford on Aug. 8, so I was unable to attend it. But I will always renown the memory of such a great man of God.

Right now I am a Jesuit Volunteer in Phoenix, working with the homeless population and living on a small stipend, so I am unable to contribute to the causes he supported at this time. Just know that my prayers are with all of you and the people he tried to help. May the Lord give you comfort during this difficult time. God had a reason for taking Rich at such a young age - although we grieve now, we can be sure that Rich is composing a new melody with the angels in heaven.

Sincerely,
Sarah Hammill

I just wanted to join in the prayer for Rich's family and friends. I continue to pray for Mitch and his injuries. I had the privilege of attending on of Rich's concerts in July. He attended an autograph signing at the local christian bookstore. Having never seen Rich before I expected him to come in and begin to sign CD's and pieces of paper for hours with the 'star' smile and handshake. I was taken back when after 10 autographs, he decided to do what he was comfortable with-sing. We were treated to 45 minutes of encouragement, conviction and praises to God. Those were that songs that we would not hear at the concert. Mitch was with him and so was the Spirit of God. We walked out and said 'how could this be any better.'

That night I was blessed by a 3 1/2 hour concert by Rich, Mitch and gang. I have been to many concerts but never to one that touched my life in such a profound way. The memory of that night is precious and one that only those who were there or have been can relate to. The joy that he sang with and his genuine faith were so evident that night. Our prayers are with Mitch and the

MD's taking care of him. Our condolences to Rich's mother and family. Thank you for encouraging and raising a Man of God who was unashamed of sharing the Gospel of Christ to the fullest. Bless him that he is now rejoicing with our Lord forever.

K Fellop

Our family would like to extend our condolences on the loss of Rich... what a blessing his marvelous gift of music has been in our lives. His songs of praise are truly more glorious now, as he sits at the feet of Jesus.

Our prayers are with his family, as well as with Mitch and his family. God bless and comfort you now as only He can.

Love In Christ,
Jim, Cathy and Jordan Hurt
Phoenix, AZ

I have been in a state of shock since last night when I first had the news verified. Rich's music has meant so much to me. More than I could ever say. He had such a way with words, always saying what I would have if I could write the way he did. And his thoughts on life really made me think. I had such great respect for him. i know that he would be telling us not to mourn. He's right where he always wanted to be. "Be God's" he would tell us, so that is what I will do. And I know that I will see him again, and if there's music in heaven, Rich will be there playin it. I can't wait!

In Christ,
Janet

I still can't believe that Rich is gone. I met him on two

separate occasions, once when he came to Holland Michigan to do a concert and the next morning he and Beaker led worship for our Youth and College group (lets just say that the college gang and Beaker never made it to Church the second hour, we had sooo much fun!) The second time was when he and Beaker did a retreat and I was a small group discussion leader. During the first small group session Rich decided to sit in (man was I nervous) but after he tried to swipe my notebook and I realized that he was just an ordinary guy (with extraordinary talent and anointing) I was glad to have him in my group. While we praise God that our brother is home waiting for us, lets remember those he left behind, I especially want to encourage you to pray for Mitch and Beaker. Beaker and Rich were like brothers. Well that's it, I pray that Jesus would Hold those who loved and will miss Rich. I also pray that we would be even more zealous for the lost in his memory!

In Jesus
Raeann Schoudt

My wife and I were at that retreat in Holland Michigan and, as usual, Rich said things I'll never forget. He had an enormous impact on my spiritual growth when I was in my early 20's. I can't even imagine what I'll look forward to now in Christian music. Nothing compared to his concerts and CD's in my opinion. If it wasn't for the fact that he's home where he always longed to be, I'd be devastated.

Mike --

Your music, your inspiration, your dedication is missed even now. May God take us to the same spiritual plane you left us from! Your music was the best expression for me and others like me. I know now that you are cutting your next album with the Angels. And your audience is the Almighty King! You are irreplaceable. Thank you, Rich!

Carmen Kelling

To Rich's family & friends,

I remember the first time I heard Rich's song "If I Stand" on the radio and said to myself, "I have to find out who wrote that song." If I were stranded on a desert island and could take one song with me, that would be it. Like others, I have been turned to a puddle of tears by someone I never met, yet I feel that he is a friend. How well his songs remind us that this earthly journey is short no matter how many years we spend here. Our true home is heaven. May you find great comfort in the Lord. He was an extraordinary musician and an extraordinary human being.

Jennifer Stacy

I can't begin to put into words what the presence of Rich's music has meant to my life. Through good times and bad his music has reinforced the power of God's Holy Spirit in my life. What a celebration in heaven welcoming Rich to his home. Thank you Rich. My prayers of comfort for your family and friends. I owe the joy and peace I receive from Psalm 63 to you.

Tish Scargill

I was numb. I didn't know what to say or do. I am a college Sr at Cumberland College in KY and his music has meant so much to me over the years. He seemed to be able to express many of things I was feeling and he was not afraid to be honest with God in his lyrics. Rich represented the kind of man I always wanted to be, someone who follows God with reckless abandon with no thought to how this crazy world may view him. His eyes were fixed on Jesus. In the two days, I have cried, got angry, cried someone and now I

just feel a peace, like somewhere God is finally holding Rich. I can't believe this is happening. I saw him in concert a couple of years ago on the Brothers Keeper tour and it was great. I was amazed at his talents and his "realness". The gospel Rich Mullins preached was a gospel that made no difference between rich or poor, single or married, pretty or ugly, and that meant a lot to me. He has inspired me so much to be REAL in my walk with Jesus and to write songs. I don;t know what to say. Tonight at church, I am going to attempt to perform "Elijah" on the guitar, I hope I can get through it. I guess its my way of saying Goodbye and thanks my friend, may I be a flicker of the light you were in this world that is so mixed up. Goodbye Rich. I love you guys!

Bill Simpson

1 Cor 16:13

I would like to encourage all of you who cared about Rich to take time to grieve. Even if you did not know him personally, it is still a great loss if he meant as much to you as he did to me. Don't let anyone tell you differently. After spending all day today at work trying to stay composed, I was able to drive my car out to an empty parking lot and cry from the depths of my being for the loss of this friend. As I listed to Rich's lyrics, "sometimes the night was beautiful... " I sat on the edge of my car and looked up at the beautiful night sky. I praised God. I thought of heaven. My soul was comforted by the incredible hope we have. There is nothing else like it. We have a home and a family. We will always be together. Always.

Zolla Bea Wadsworth

Like others I can not keep quiet. Rich Mullins changed my life. His music, his attitude, his life touched mine forever. When I strayed from the Lord I heard Sometimes By Step for the first time. The words made me think and once again got me on track with

God. Every song of his became part of my life. I would listen intently to the words for his messages were so deep and true. When I met him after concert in South Bend, IN this past year, I told him of how I was lost but am now found because of his words. Once again Rich found more words to give to me, straight from the heart, that endowed me with more love and energy for the Lord than I have ever felt. His time here was excelling and his work will live forever as will his memory. He went out of this cruel world and now sings his praises with the angels. I just now God is smiling even wider. Rich will be missed and loved forever.

-Ryan Humphery

To the family...

Your Son has left a legacy of peace, assurance and hope for all Christians now and in the future. Millions of young people sing "Awesome God" knowing that it is an inspirational gift from God. Your son gave us our own music to praise and worship God. He will be missed, for now, until we join him at the Big Party in the Sky.

N. Hock

I never thought anyone could minister to me through music like Keith Green until two years ago while in my car I heard a song on the radio and asked "WHO IS THIS?" The words and voice spoke to my heart and I found out it was Rich and the song was "The Creed". Since then I have been encouraged and ministered by his parables put to music. As with Keith's music, Rich's will live in my heart forever. Matthew 25:21 His Lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Yours in Him,
Julia

My Condolences To The Mullins:

I just wanted to share to you that Rich was the first christian musician I loved, and admired as a growing "baby" christian. I miss him very much. I am sad that I'll never have the chance to meet him, but to listen to the beautiful music he made for God. God gives great gifts. My heart to you.

Love,
john

There are no words to express the great loss of such a precious man of God. He will live on in the hearts of many and continue to be a blessing for years to come. His music played a large part in bringing me back to the Lord and bringing a sister in Christ to walk beside me along the way. Her family has been a blessing to ours through the good and the bad. Rich Mullins music is such a special part of our lives. The words he wrote and sung touched a harden heart and let the light of our Lord in once again. May God comfort the family and countless friends of Rich Mullins. He will be greatly missed by many but I praise God for the time we had to enjoy his ministry here on earth. My prayers and thoughts are with you all and the family of Marshall McVicker. All we can do is give it all over to the Lord and believe in Him. He truly is an 'awesome God'.

God bless you & keep you all,
Tammy Freitas & family

Who will sing to my heart now? Rich Mullins was a poet who gave voice to those thoughts and feelings we all have, but cannot express. While I know that he now has that perfect rest he so earnestly sought, I still weep selfishly for my own loss. My heart breaks for his family and all those who loved him. Sweet

Lord, ease all our sorrows until we are with You and Rich again in
Your eternal concert of praise.

Kevin Meyer

To the family of Rich Mullins.

I regret the loss of Rich. He was a talented man who loved the
Lord deeply. Be assured that he is in no pain and is in the
presence of God, the ultimate Party! My Prayers are with you.

enclosed is a poem I wrote on another occasion of a friend's
passing...

The Mourning

In this time of mourning,
I've had a chance to reflect.
Of things I've done, of things I've said
and things I do regret.
But as I'm laying quietly,
I hear an angel's sigh
the life force of a loved one
has just bade Earth "goodbye"

And though the hurt and pain
indeed the sorrow felt thereof
will surely as the sun rises
be replaced by God's Love!
Our loved one's they who loved the Christ,
they need to fear no more,
'Cause Satan and his schemer's
cannot reach through Heaven's door!

So let us think of them, and praise our God.
They dance on Holy streets of gold!
Never sick, never crying, never growing old!
There's something dear I want up there,

let's see, what can it be?
A house, a hill, a treasury?
NO! I want Christ's Love for me!
Although I know the Lord has ready
a house white like a dove,
and all my Family, yes FANTASTIC!!!
But what I want is the Father's Love.

The pain is still there, it has a season.
It really hurts, Lord, and I know the reason.
Sometimes there's no time for the goodbye
but Faith in Jesus reunites us in the sky!!

Thank you Jesus!
--Eric Sahlstrom

The news is a sad one from the horizontal perspective. But
glorious from a vertical one.

Rich, wherever you are in heaven right now, I'm sure you're
singing "Our God is and Awesome God" I'll see you near Jesus, pal.

For the family, my deepest respects and condolences.

Joey Holder

First heard the voice of Rich Mullins from a small town in
Nigeria, West Africa. I was first captured by the voice, then the
words,... A sad loss this really is... Thank you very much Rich
for all the times your music blessed me, and will continue to - it
LIVES ON

- ocheneta patrick

I received my first rich mullins tape at the Grand Canyon about 6 months after Christ gave me life, a guy who was doing his devotion's on a scenic point gave it to me, and i was hooked. no one i've ever met could describe God's creation better- were still in shock, mixed with joy. Rev. 14:13 assures us he is at rest and that Christ will carry on through his music. See ya in a few Rich.

BC. Leawood

I will never forget the time I met Rich it was back in 1982 before he made it big. He told me that he was going to go to Tenn. and make it big. At the time he was in the group Zion. He and the Group were putting a concert on for my week of church camp. After the concert Rich remained on and was part of the staff. I would have to say that was one of the funnest weeks of camp I ever had. I then went off the Bible School which just so happens to be the same one that Rich went to CBC. I have tried to follow his progress. Then on Saturday night I was watching TV and they had a news break and that's when I received the news of Rich's death. It really hit me hard and I started to cry. I really feel my life is better because I got to know Rich my thoughts and prayers are with his family. I will also be praying for Mitch. I just wish I could of afforded to buy his albums. May God Bless you all in your time of need.

Beth Ann Carter

I think it's great how Rich Mullins showed his love to God through his music. And listening to his music has made me realize that God is real and is right there!! It is sad that we lost a loved one. But I know that he is up in Heaven with our Awesome God worshipping and praising Him!!!

God Bless

Melissa

The words and music of Rich Mullins and his closest friends has been, and will continue to be, like a mirror that reflects the cracks of inadequacy in our lives, but at the same time opens those cracks up to the abounding grace of God the Father. The legacies of Rich's sojourn reach far and wide.

From
Boyd Williams,
Adelaide, South Australia.

We thank God for allowing Rich Mullins to share his faith with all of us. We met Rich a couple of different times. His music was a big influence in our christian walk. My wife & I praise Jesus Christ for Rich. You will be missed!
In Christ,
David & Debi Ashley

"... on and on, the rain will say, how fragile we are... .how fragile we are"

Thanks for sharing your life and music with us all... ..goodbye.

Brian Park

I wish to express my condolences to you concerning the unfortunate death of Rich. I started listening to his music about 2 years ago through the prompting of a friend, who is a very strong believer. I have only listened to a couple of his albums, but they are among my favorites.

I greatly appreciate people who can express their faith in God through Biblically sound contemporary music. Rich was one of the best lyricist of his generation. I just wish I had the opportunity to hear him personally. Perhaps some day I will be able to - in Heaven!

Sincerely,
David Milla

The first time I ever heard Rich Mullins was when I turned on the radio in my car, and it was halfway through "If I stand" and I was captivated by the chorus. Thankfully they said that the song was by Rich Mullins when it was over, and I think I drove immediately to the Christian bookstore and bought the tape.

I loved the music of his songs, but I loved the words more. I know that lots of people loved his praise songs best, but my favorite songs of Rich's were his songs about life -- First Family, Jacob and Two Women (which I never have completely understood, but puzzling it out has been fascinating), Growing Young, I'll Carry On.

I also loved the spirit that Rich had. He wasn't the typical Christian... far from it, in fact. I always felt like he was one to love first, and worry about the details later. In the last year, I've had some very hurtful experiences with the church in general, and while I still believe completely in God, I've been avoiding church, and the typical christians, as well as Christian music. All Christian music, that is, except for Rich's. His songs are so true-to-heart that you can hear the sincerity in every note.

I'm going to miss him tremendously -- miss his future music, miss seeing him in concert, but most of all, just miss knowing that there's someone like him around. I felt a heart-connection with him, and it saddens me deeply knowing that he's gone.

Rachel

We were privileged to meet him and attend some concerts. We loved him, and my children loved him. I hoped and prayed I would have a chance to take my kids to one of his concerts, but that will have to wait until we all have a blow-out concert in heaven!!

To Rich's family: We all have a chance to change some lives here on earth, but your son Rich had the opportunity to touch many lives... and he didn't waste that opportunity, but willingly did what the Father led him to do. Our prayers are with you.

To Mitch and family: God's ways and times are not our ways and times. Trust Him.

To Sam: your New York friends from CFC are thinking and praying for you.

Cynthia Rogers

This is a great loss to us who remain behind but what a gain for Heaven. Peace and comfort to his family and friends.

craig

Rich touched so many of our lives in so many different ways. He visited a youth group that my husband and I sponsored when he was a student at CBS. Even then he was sharing his faith through his music. How VERY proud of him you must be! His lose is irreplaceable but it is great to know that he is waiting for us with our Father. My prayer for you is that the Holy Spirit will comfort you at this time and that you can rejoice because of the legacy Rich left for us all, to encourage, and support our faith. Thank you for doing such a wonderful job of raising your son in

the "fear and admonition of the Lord."

Linda Berridge

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my sadness in the loss of Rich Mullins and to also share a joy the world does not understand. Rich is at home with his, and our, Lord! While we grieve the loss of a man with such a heart for God, we know as children of God that there is a far more beautiful place. Rich's music, and therefore part of his ministry, lives on. He will continue to touch hearts.

My prayer are with Rich's family.

Carla Green

Lexington, KY

I painted Rich's picture and gave it to him July 24, 1997 at his Joplin, Missouri concert. I am thinking I guess I painted it for someone in his family. God bless you as yours has blessed many.
Kent Bradshaw

In Memory of Rich Mullins

From the Psalms

R ighteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
love and faithfulness go before You. 89:14
I n God, whose word I praise, in God I trust;
I will not be afraid. 56:4
C ome, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation. 95:1
H e reached down from on high and took hold of me;
He drew me out of deep waters. 18:16

M ay the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord,
my Rock and my Redeemer. 19:14
U nder the shadow of Your wings,
both high and low among men find refuge.
How priceless is Your unfailing love! 36:7
L et Your face shine on Your servant;
save me in Your unfailing love. 31:16
L ike Your name, O God,
Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
Your right hand is filled with righteousness. 48:10
I n You, O Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
N ot to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory,
because of Your love and faithfulness. 115:1
S ing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. 33:3

ART

His music helped pull me through many difficult times. I never met him or saw him perform but his songs inspired me so that he seemed like a friend. Now a cloud of sadness has come and I ask God: why take him so soon? I do not mourn for Rich because he can now enjoy a home with the Father. I do pray God will recognize our loss, and send us more blessings like Rich.

Jon Russell

Thank you, God for sharing Rich Mullins' talent with the world.

His legacy will live on with Christians around the world and his music will celebrate not only the Jesus he loved, but the life and talent Jesus gave him.

May God give you peace and comfort in this time of loss. May God

bless you for sharing your son with all of us.

N. Slavich

"Sometimes the night was beautiful
Sometimes the sky was so far away
Sometimes it seemed to step so close
You could touch it but your heart would break"

Those words begin the song that defines my life. As I've walked through the darkness of this world's eternal night, God has used Rich's music and message to sustain my spirit. I never had the opportunity to meet Rich in person, but there's no doubt our souls were formed by the same awesome God. I will miss Rich greatly as I continue my journey to the Jordan. I pray God's blessing and comfort for Rich's family and many friends.

God bless you all until we rejoice in the glory of Jesus' presence.

Jason Robinson

"I will seek you in the morning And I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step You'll lead me And I will follow You all of my days"

Patrick Erney

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family,

I want to extend my deepest sympathies for your loss. I saw Rich, a couple of times in concert and really enjoyed him. There are various songs that folks remember him by, but my favorite is the song First Family.

It was written in the late 1980's I suppose, at a time when my

family was going through a terrible tragedy. I was raised with in a family of 3 boys and 2 girls, and in Nov. 1989, my older brother was killed in a car accident. The line that spoke about God's provision and how you and your husband handled touched me deeply. Thanks for lending him to the world and letting his voice speak God's word and comfort. May the realization of the resurrection comfort you now.

With love and deep sympathy,
Stephen J. Chapman

I would like to thank God for the privilege of hearing Rich sing. His song "Hold me Jesus" encouraged me when my best friend died in 1995 by drowning at 25. There are several lessons we need to learn: First, you never know how long you have with someone you love - make the last words they hear from you be "I love you". Secondly, we only have a limited time, so therefore we need to encourage each other as christians to run the race that is set before us. Rich ran well... are we? Don't give in to sin: Fight to honor the Lord Jesus in everything you do, because the time is so short. The final thing I think I've learned since Friday is the fact that we should be telling people what they mean to us NOW. For example, Charlie Peacock is the other christian musician whose music has really touched my life. I plan to send him a card now... to tell him what he means to me. I want him to know before he dies. What about your parents, your sister or brother... that person you've been fighting with... all y'all! Heal the hurts

-be ministers of reconciliation!

Peace

martha bootle

tampa, florida

Rich Mullins was very much in the minority of Christian music. In

an industry where there is so much bad, even heretical, doctrine, Rich Mullins provided Christians with sound lyrics that seemed to come from the heart - his sincerity and commitment to our Lord and Savior is evident in his songs. With the loss of Keith Green, the Christian music world went down hill fast with only people such as Steve Camp, Michael Card, & Rich to produce edifying, God-honoring music. With Rich gone, I shudder to think what the future holds for Christian music. His contribution and ministry will surely be missed though praise the Lord, he's finally home.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11:25, 26)

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

Craig & Lynn Glasheen

Lord tell Rich we miss him.....

Rob

I and my family were saddened to hear of Rich's death. I wanted to tell you that we saw him in concert in April of this year in Tulsa, Okla. The last song we sang was It Is Well With My Soul. He had the congregation sing it with him, and the presence of the Lord was very real in that place. I am so thankful that we have that memory of being in one of his concerts. Thank you for sharing your son and brother with the rest of the world. I pray God will be with you in this time of grieving. We know he is in a much better place, with the one he loved, Jesus Christ our Lord

and Savior.

God Bless you.

Dan, Diane, and, Carly Gagle

I would like to express my sympathies to Rich's family: My heart is broken for you in your loss. I met Rich once, and I went to every concert of his that came to my town. I don't know how to explain it - Rich just had a way of putting some of our deepest feelings and experiences regarding God, life, love and Christ into words with the most beautiful music. I find myself always hearing emotions that I could not express in his songs. He was very unique and God blessed all of us immensely through his music. I told Rich that when I met him. He was so humble and had such a neat personality. He was someone you just wanted to be around and listen to. Whether he was talking or singing. I envy those that knew him the best. They were really blessed to be able to have that opportunity. I know that we will get to see and hear Rich again when we meet in Heaven. I look forward to that day. Please know that your are in my prayers daily. "Now, may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and strengthen you in every good word and work."

II Thess. 2:16 - 17

Stephanie Abney

Tuesday the 23rd of September. I just found out the tragic news. My heart sank but then bounced back rather quickly. His Father has called him home. Yes sorrow is a point of any loss but God can take all of that sorrow and turn it into joy, the joy that Rich gave and will continue to give to his fans old and new for the years to come. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Rich Mullins

Lee Ziegler

My wife and I first heard the news of Rich's death on Monday morning. It is amazing how one artist's music can be so used of God. Last night we spent time praying for Rich's family and for the family of the other person in the vehicle, as we thought that he had been killed also. Please pass our prayers and love to the Mullins and McVickers. We will always feel bitter sweet sorrow when listening to his music, partly selfish but I think none the less human. We will miss his ministry immensely.

Love in Christ,
Robert & Jackie Glavind
Abbotsford, BC, Canada

I am amazed...I just heard of this tragic loss five days after it happened! I went back through my local newspaper and found no mention of Rich's death at all. "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord..." I know Rich would not want national attention, but I find it ironic because with the number of lives he touched, he certainly should have had his funeral broadcast on national television. I saw him in concert in Columbia, SC in 1992. To this day, it remains my favorite concert I have ever attended. The Lord used Rich's words and music that night to prompt my husband and I to sponsor two Compassion children from Guatemala, and we are involved in their lives to this day. My heart is indeed heavy. I am in ministry with high school kids, and I hope to share Rich Mullins' legacy of servanthood with them as they seek to become disciples.

Bethany Bradsher

Dear Mullins Family: There are never enough words to express feelings during this time. The only thing I can say is that there

is no doubt as to where Rich now is and that one day we will all see him again, in Glory. It is wonderful to know that our Father said "Welcome home my good and faithful servant, your job was well done!"

My deepest sympathies,
Sandra Fleury

My wife and I were deeply, deeply saddened to hear the news of Rich's death on Saturday morning. His music has been a part of our lives for more than ten years now. No matter how many times we replayed his albums, they never ceased to move us with the absolute beauty of God and His incomprehensible love for all of us.

As I thought back over the saddest and most despairing moments of my life over the last decade, I realized that during each of those times I found myself listening to Rich's music. It was a source of great comfort to me in some of my darkest moments. When I felt as if my life were falling apart, or doubted that God truly cared for me, it was Rich's music that reminded me of the "one true love in this world of lies... the one true love that gives me strength... the only one true love." His music always renewed my hope and set my mind and heart back to praising God.

I had the privilege to meet Rich once at a youth retreat at Round Lake Camp in Ohio. He talked to me and my friends for a long time and we wound up playing cards and talking for quite a while. I found him to be as sincere and "real" as his music. There was no pretense with him- he was in no way caught up with himself or his popularity. He was simply a child of God doing what God had set before him to accomplish. No glory went to him- only to God.

I cannot express how truly, truly sorry my wife and I are for your great loss. While I know that the grief will be so strong for a long time to come, please remember that Rich is now doing what God predestined him to do from before the foundations of the Earth.

Rich is now experiencing first-hand the incredible glory of his Awesome God! I know that God is more than pleased to be hearing Rich's beautiful voice joining the Heavenly chorus ringing out His praises for all eternity!

-Jim & Julie Covert
Columbus, Ohio

I don't remember exactly where in the bible, but I remember reading "precious in the sight of the lord is the death of one of his saints", so let us rejoice and be comforted in that. To say that he is in a better place is an understatement. He truly ministered. Rich said it wouldn't break his heart to say goodbye, I understand why, But the loss to the body here on earth is indeed great. The sorrow is deep but I am comforted to know his relationship with God was (is) real, it showed in his music. As with the death of Keith Green I do not understand why God would take such a help to the body of Christ away. God is sovereign, I can only suppose that God simply took back his own because that man's work here on earth was complete, God does know what is best. Rich's work will continue to minister here on earth for many many years to come. I am grateful to God for Rich, his music has helped me to realize (in every sense of the word) my own relationship with God. I will continue to pray for his family and his friend Mitch. God has blessed us. Even in our sorrow "He reigns with wisdom, power and love". our God is truly an awesome God! We love you Rich and will miss you here on earth deeply, but long to worship and praise God together with you before his throne. I will see you on the other side of the Jordan my brother.

I'll see you later...
Leo Gutierrez

I appreciate the opportunity to somehow express my condolences and grief at Rich's death. Rich leaves behind a legacy of so many

people that he has reached with his music. His faith expressed through his music has been such an inspiration to me, my wife, and so many friends. My friends and I have a tradition of going camping every fall when the leaves are beautiful. Late at night by the campfire and in the morning as we gaze at the beauty of God's creation, we would play Rich's music and praise God. Last night, my wife and I listened to Rich's version of ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME and we wept. Please know that Rich is truly missed by so many people that he touched with his art. His death has been a catalyst in my life to know that I want to leave a legacy behind also, with my gifts and with my faith.

God bless,
Bryan Coley
Atlanta, GA

My heart-felt sympathy and condolences to all the friends and family of Rich. He touched the hearts and souls of everyone he came in contact with, either physically or lyrically. Some of my most memorable experiences of Rich were when he came to sign at our church, River Valley in Indiana...he was such an inspiration and we all loved him for the man and messenger that he was.

My thoughts and prayers are with you...may his life be cherished in the hearts of all his many friends and family.

God Bless,
Lori Morgan

I've known Rich for about 13 years. All that could be said about his music has not been said. His insight into the Creator and Lover of our souls will be a lasting clarion call to all of us to be filled with compassion for one another. The brevity of his life, yet the endless scope of his reach is a call to wake up, not only seizing the day, but "carpe eterintas." My last talk with

Rich was only 6 weeks ago. He, Mitch, and "the boys" were in concert at a teen conference that I help with every year, in southern Illinois. It was my 42 birthday, and since, Rich and I were the same age, I felt an additional kindred spirit. But there was something haunting about his music that night, there was a sense of finality to, almost like the Apostle Paul saying, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race... now there is laid up for me a crown..." The mood of his music was so overpowering that I felt that I needed to talk to him. After the concert, when everything had been put away, Rich and I talked briefly about birthdays, and stuff. Then I said that I was so deeply troubled in spirit about his concert that night, and asked him, "Rich, this is a strange question, but do you have a sense that you're going to die soon, that the end of your life is near? I know it's strange but I just got this overwhelming sense during your concert that you know you're life is coming to an end." He said no, that he wasn't aware of any feeling like that, and we kinda laughed about it. We talked for a short time more, and I put it out of my mind until I heard the news this weekend. I've been replaying our conversation over and over in my heart of hearts. Brothers and sisters in Jesus, life is so short. If we have learned from Rich's life, let us also learn from his death that we must "seek Him in the morning, and learn to walk in His ways, and step by step as He leads us, we must follow Him all of our days." God bless us all in our grief, and may He be honored in our joy in Jesus.

Nicole

The day following Rich's death, I came upon this passage in Isaiah: "The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understand that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death."

Isaiah 57:1-2

Jim Musser,

Campus Minister for Campus Christians

University of Kansas, Lawrence

On my way home from college, I picked up "Never Picture Perfect" in a bookstore simply because the guy on the front looked "real" like someone I could talk to, not plastic or fake. I went to the listening station and held my breath as I listened to a small portion of "First Family." I bought the cd on the spot and cried several times on the 3 hour trip home to Houston. His passion, honesty and earnest crying out to the Lord resounded with everything in my soul. His music was not entertainment. It was ministry. I am very sorry to lose Rich the brother in Christ and Rich the source of amazing music.

I look forward to singing with him before the throne of God

To Rich's mother, to his family, to his friends, I add my most sincere condolences and tears to this incredible outpouring. It's a struggle to convey our emotions and sympathy through this rather impersonal medium when the words themselves are hard to find, so I hope the sheer volume of love and concern expressed will warm and comfort your souls. Rich has been among my favorites for many years, but last year, when I went through the most difficult emotional and spiritual crisis of my life, I discovered a great solace in his music. He truly provided some of the most important (earthly) help that I had at that terrible time, and it continues to this day; it will for the rest of my life.

His thoughtful, sensitive lyrics are matched with music that captures the pain and loneliness we so often face in this burning wilderness, and helps us to seek and see the Lord in it; or frees the soul to catch a glimpse of those heavenly places where he now converses with his Friend. I hope that in turn now, my thoughts, all of our thoughts, will help you through your terrible time.

To Rich's mother, it is an awful thing to outlive your children,

and my heart breaks for you. But we don't sorrow as those who have no hope. We'll be with him again, soon! I don't (personally) know you or Rich or any of the ones who I hope to console, but someday we'll all meet in that place where mercy leads- and oh, the songs we'll sing!

-- Finally: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor 1:3-4) God used Rich to comfort me, and many others; I hope we've done the same for you.

Thomas Cunningham

May God be with you and give you all comfort as He has done for us in the past in these trying days.

Officer Joe Benko

PPD Administration

Peoria Police Department

-- I find it so interesting that as we are so amazed by the death of this man of God, we are lifted up, inspired, and comforted not by others, but by the words of his music. His words are encouraging us, even in the time of his death. The words are testimony to his love of God. I know of no one more prepared to see Jesus face to face. We are not so much grieving, but rejoicing because he was SO in love with God.

Erin Bunch

One of my fondest memories of Rich will always be the way Rich, while in Wichita, came to see my father, Bill Lown, (a shut-in) for Bible study. Rich had such a hunger for the truth and he allowed my father to help feed that hunger. It was so good for

both of them. Just before dad died, Rich came to see dad. We told Rich there would probably be no response. Rich stood there holding dad's hand and praying for a long time. Now they are having a great bible study at the Masters feet!

Carol Moyer

He has meant a great deal to me in my life and the way I think about my faith. Rich Mullins was a man after God's own heart. During his time here on earth, his ministry was like none other. My heart goes out to his family at his passing, but he is home. My prayers go out to Mitch and family for healing, not only physical but spiritual.

It's amazing how much you can feel the loss of someone you've never met. It speaks of the heart that was poured into his music and the way he laid his soul bare in the lyrics, unafraid to share things we all have felt. Praise God for the gift of his life, and for his gift back to God. The dj loved playing "Few Good Men" and I adopted it as a guideline for a future husband. I went off to college and met a man there who "makes a difference...made for trouble, who could come and help shape our destinies." We later married and enjoyed a life of ministry together. God took him home last year, two weeks short of our fifth anniversary. Now Rich is there in the presence of God too. The party's on the other side of the Jordan! But for me, as one loss is added to another, I'm beginning to understand. Surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses, we who remain are still responsible for making a difference for Christ. God is good.

Kevin Brown

Rich was always one of my favorite writers. He saw Heaven in clouds. He saw Jesus hangin on the cross. Love came, and the

world didn't accept Him. Heaven won't be the same with him there. I'm sure that the man with no shoes is changing Heaven just a little bit. "Our God Is An Awesome God" is now the anthem of Heaven.

David Jones

My favorite concert was at the Cannery, GMA Week, Nashville, 1994, benefit for Compassion International. It was steaming hot. You could smell Rich's Patuli (spelling?) cologne at least 10 rows back. The dulcimer hummed, a beautiful young lady performed a folk dance to one of the songs off Liturgy, Legacy...("The Color Green," I think.] Rich oozed poetry and passion. To close the show, Rich led a praise service that made God's presence so real, the place almost felt like heaven. It was magical.

Phil Newman

I saw Rich in concert more than any other Christian artist. He seemed to keep his feet on the ground, his head about him, and everything else he did in perspective to God's love. He was a remarkable man, and I look forward to seeing him on Main St, New Jerusalem. I am sad for my loss at his death, as well as for his family's loss at one who encompassed so much of what we'd like to think we'd be in his situation.

Timothy Luoma

Dear friends & family of Rich,

This morning as I was halfway praying, halfway daydreaming, I was thinking, "I wonder, if Rich could relay the one most important thing he learned from the Lord after he passed into glory back to his friends on earth, what would it be?"

As my mind conceived of wonderful hidden mysteries of the world to come, like a flash, the words came to me,

"He would tell them to not be anxious or worry about ANYTHING because He REALLY IS working out everything for His glory and His children's good. Just trust and have confidence in Him for everything."

I really do believe this was from the Spirit and felt like I should pass it along.

In Him,
Rob

I didn't learn of Rich's passing until Sunday night. I really never thought I would get very upset over the death of someone I didn't personally know. So I was surprised to find myself crying as I got ready for work on Monday morning.

On the way in, our christian radio station was playing some of his music as a tribute. It seemed like he was singing to us from heaven. His music ministered and continues to minister to me in a way I can't even fully understand, let alone describe. A girl I know once said that Rich has the soul of a poet, and this is surely true. God was so good to have given Rich to us, even for a little while. I have always believed he was one of the premier musicians of this generation, not just in Christian circles, but in all categories; not just in America, but world wide. Through Rich, God has revealed a vision of His Kingdom that stirs the heart and excites the imagination. His music spurs us on to an even deeper longing to know the One who spoke into the darkness and created the light. As I think of what has happened I am reminded of his lyrics: "... how the Lord takes by its corners this old world and shakes us forward and shakes us free; to run wild with the hope, to run wild with the hope... the hope that this thirst will not last long but it will soon drown in the song not sung in vain.." Your songs were not sung in vain, Rich. Thank you.

And to his family: thank you as well. We loved him very much.

David Medearis

My wife and I were deeply, deeply saddened to hear the news of Rich's death on Saturday morning. His music has been a part of our lives for more than ten years now. No matter how many times we replayed his albums, they never ceased to move us with the absolute beauty of God and His incomprehensible love for all of us.

As I thought back over the saddest and most despairing moments of my life over the last decade, I realized that during each of those times I found myself listening to Rich's music. It was a source of great comfort to me in some of my darkest moments. When I felt as if my life were falling apart, or doubted that God truly cared for me, it was Rich's music that reminded me of the "one true love in this world of lies... the one true love that gives me strength... the only one true love." His music always renewed my hope and set my mind and heart back to praising God.

I had the privilege to meet Rich once at a youth retreat at Round Lake Camp in Ohio. He talked to me and my friends for a long time and we wound up playing cards and talking for quite a while. I found him to be as sincere and "real" as his music. There was no pretense with him- he was in no way caught up with himself or his popularity. He was simply a child of God doing what God had set before him to accomplish. No glory went to him- only to God.

I cannot express how truly, truly sorry my wife and I are for your great loss. While I know that the grief will be so strong for a long time to come, please remember that Rich is now doing what God predestined him to do from before the foundations of the Earth. Rich is now experiencing first-hand the incredible glory of his Awesome God! I know that God is more than pleased to be hearing Rich's beautiful voice joining the Heavenly chorus ringing out His praises for all eternity!

Jim & Julie Covert

Columbus, Ohio

Our condolences go to Rich's family. We were terribly saddened at the new Saturday. As my 17 yr old daughter said, "He was the only music artist both kids and parents could relate to." His music has ministered to us from the very beginning with his first album. We have seen him in concert several times in the Chicago area, the most recent being in August at our church (finally) in a small coffee house setting. I am so thankful we could go, and were so blessed. God bless you all at your loss which is so painful. Rich's music will continue to minister to all, and will forever be our favorite.

Mrs. Mullins and family,

The past month the Lord has brought some very famous people home, but none has effected me more than the death of your son. I felt I knew a special part of him through the music that he created and the legacy of faith he left through that medium. He brought me to places that I have never been in my prayer life through the beautiful scenery he created in the lyrics of his music. I was able to walk with Christ on the beaches of New England, through the home of a child as he experiences Christmas day, and through the plains of our great country. As a Roman Catholic, he also gave my faith a wonderfully uplifting rendition of the Apostle's Creed. This is the core beliefs of my faith and I have never heard them stated so beautifully as Rich did through the song "I Believe."

Your family is in my prayers and the prayers of all of my christian friends. I hope that the legacy he left and the assurance of his place in heaven can give you some level of compensation for the loss of him physically here on Earth.

Peace and Love Always,

Kerry Godbold

My family spent time with Rich over the last decade and knew each of those moments were something rather out of this world. His music is unsurpassed, it seems to go without saying. I'm impressed at the level of connection we all feel, no matter if we ever actually met him or saw him. No one has ever had the impact that this man had on us. I now recognize that as only the Holy Spirit. Our generation needed a voice and leader to help us; God gave the best. Through all the seemingly never ending tears and grief I think I finally got it. I've never known anyone else who wanted to "go out like Elijah". I looked up the story in II Kings and was finally relieved of the horrible image of Rich's death in my head. It has been replaced with the incredible recognition that what looked like a chariot in chariot days, looked like a truck in these days, and it came blazing between the two men and took the one who had desired to be taken...and he surely was blessed to look back on the stars as he was swept into God's complete glory. As Elisha crossed back over the Jordan to continue as Elijah's successor...we all pray for Mitch to recover and carry on. What are the rest of us going to do now? I think we need to get down, and really love our neighbor as ourself like Rich, and especially Jesus, always told us. We obviously have a strong connection here...so lets let the Spirit flow and produce fruit like never before!!

Love and Peace and Comfort to all.

Dell Grose

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I know that at a time like this you are experiencing great loss and grief. I do not expect you to remember me or anything, but I wanted to write and express my sorrow. My name is Nicole Isaacs and in November of 1994, my friend Amy Winger and I stayed at your house while our Come Alive! team from Cincinnati Bible College

and Seminary ministered to your church. I can remember your house so vividly and looking at pictures with your granddaughter. I know that nothing anyone will say is going to ease the pain, but know that Rich is in God's hands and is waiting for all of us to come home too. I would love to hear from you, although I understand that this is not a good time. If you remember me, and there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. Again, sorry about your loss. Take care.

In His Love,
Nicole Isaacs
521 Elm Drive
Plainfield, IN 46168

Rich's songs challenged me every day. I take heart in knowing that he is at the foot of Jesus. We were all blessed to be touched by Rich I just wanted to write a short story about Mullins and the importance of him to me in my life. One of my friends had gotten me hooked on Christian music and soon I began to realize what a positive influence the music had on me. The reason Mullins's music was important to me is because he was one of the first contemporary christian artists I had been acquainted with. Rich, we love you and we miss you. Our love and prayers go out to the Mullins' family. God will take care of you Rich. You know he will!

Leigh-Anne Lubiani

I wrote this after listening to "Songs". I am not a writer and i never write, but i put my feelings and thoughts on paper and this is what came out: A man dies, His voice sings on. A lifeless body, Filled with life-saving words. Ten feet under, Spirit soaring heavenbound. An earthly gravestone, A heavenly crown. A man no more, Except in our hearts. Never to see on earth, But ever to be heard.

Kenneth DeChant

I'm writing to tell you that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Rich's songs touched my heart unlike anyone else, I know that God was using him in amazing ways. He will never be forgotten, and his songs will continue to witness to thousands, even while he is singing with the angels. I pray that God's peace will guard your heart and your minds.

Best wishes,
Wendy Gillmore

The news of Rich's death really caught me off guard. We go about our busy lives so many times not really stopping to realize our own mortality. Rich Mullins' music has been an inspiration and guide for me and my wife in good times and in bad times. His music has come into my thoughts in times of sorrow and times of joy. His example of truly living as a Christian where ever our Lord took him has shown many that we do serve an Awesome God. My earthly feelings bring me sorrow at his death but I know that he has gone to a much better place where we will all praise God with him again.

Richard & Debra Ratliff

I cannot describe what Rich's music meant to me. The words in his music were so filled with Scripture, with a deep understanding it seems, of God Himself, and of those texts he had chosen from His Word.

I often took out a Rich Mullins album and programmed it for just one song, over and over and over again for an hour or so as I cleaned, or just simply read and/or meditated upon my Heavenly Father Whom Rich's music and lyrics were so powerfully extolling, as they described His indescribable, matchless glory and beauty.

I could not stop weeping yesterday, when I first heard the news. I must've cried for an hour. I feel cheated that I will no longer be able to be blessed and encouraged with new songs from Rich's prolific mind. I truly enter into worship, and a deeper mental understanding as well as a more full communion with my Blessed Lord, when I listen to Rich's music. I have never been this moved upon a more publicly known person's death before. But I realized yesterday that I felt like I had known Rich through his music, and guess, through the fellowship of our Christ and His Word.

Recently having come through the severest trial of my faith yet when I had doubted everything I had believed for so many years, upon the Lord delivering me from that and granting me the assurance of His Word and His Person and Plan again, Rich's was one of, if not "the," first Christian music I so relievedly picked up and threw in the player again - and it seems that its ministry to me was even more powerful to me after having being delivered through that horrible season. (I found my God faithful, even in the midst of my doubt; that nothing can separate me [even doubt!] from my Father [as the Word says in Romans 8], and I experienced that doubt does not have to always be the antithesis of faith, but can be an element in its journey [as Alistair McGrath has so eloquently described in his book "Sunnier Side of Doubt."])

I also appreciated Rich's voice for the poor of this world. So often in our capitalistic fundamental circles this is a part of obedience to our Lord's teachings that is often incredibly totally jettisoned. Yet Rich voiced, and it seems modelled quite well, this aspect of Jesus' injunctions. Rich held nothing back, telling it like it is at his recent concert at Temple Baptist Church in Plymouth, Michigan, of which I and a friend were privileged to attend. I remember several of Rich's comments, including his courageous and daring pointing out that the reason that there are poor in any society is because inequities are inevitable in this present world's system. May his charge to action inspire and leave the legacy that he wished.

I could write on and on, to try to somehow do some little tiny bit of justice of all that I feel and think at this time concerning

Rich and his music and ministry. But time and prudence would not permit, and Rich's music and legacy truly speak for themselves. I grieve for and with you in your loss; I cannot imagine how much greater it must be than mine or any fan's. But I rejoice with you also, in Heaven's gain.

in Christ Jesus,

Amanda V. Gale (simply a fan and sister in Christ)

My brother-in-law saw him and loved it! He was so impressed and shared his music with me last year. I'm so saddened to hear of his passing. I will never get to hear his inspirational music in person.

Anne Mutti

We would like to extend our condolences to the Mullins family. Obviously, nothing can be said which has not already been said, but know our prayers are added to the thousands already offered to Christ on a daily basis. May you have the peace Rich has as the Holy Spirit ministers to you through your grief.

Rob and Elizabeth

Though I never met the man, I feel I know him so dearly. His words and notes spoke for my speechless heart. So often when I could not find the right way to express myself to God, Rich would come along and I would feel the divine inspiration that led him and that spoke for so many. He was my favorite poet. I hope it is a comfort to you that his life impacted so many...he burned brightly and quickly.

Valerie Martin

Rich's concerts were always more like family reunions than performances. Happily, we will one day share the ultimate family reunion tour with Jesus. Rich and I go way back. We played together in Cincinnati while he was at CBC and I was at UC. This was in 1976-1977, before he formed Zion Ministries. We did a concert of original stuff together with 4 or 5 other musicians at Grad Hall for the Revival Hour.

Something about Rich that bothered me was that he didn't write down much of anything. I asked him about it and he remarked that if it was worth remembering he would, otherwise...

I have the words to the songs we did that night only because a friend put together a program. One song, "Isaiah 40," was not in the program because Rich felt it was so close to the Scripture that there was no need to take up program space. The music still lingers in my brain (there was one cassette tape of the concert, but I don't have it). I have the words to another song "Harmony" written in Rich's own scrawl. There's a funny story that goes with it, if you're interested...

Rich and I wrote one of the songs, "Come, Lord," together. As far as I know, it has never been done outside of that concert (and church), unless Rich pulled it out in his travels with Zion.

I am a computer science teacher professionally, but also a worship leader/singer/songwriter. Much of what I write that is good reflects Rich's influence, and I wanted to testify to that.

Rich was something like a comet -- every few years or so our orbits would intersect. But he was still Rich! He never lost that "ordinary guy hangin' around the dorm" quality, something that came through on stage and in his music. I'll miss him.

Rick Nohle
Elder High School

Words can never express the emotions I felt when I learned of Rich's passing. What a great Man of God he truly was.

I have the pleasure of being friends with a guy here who promotes concerts "Grace Productions". After a Wayne Watson concert we were talking about Christian artists and how many of them seem to be caught up in the entertainment part of the industry (not Wayne). Not so with Rich. My friend spoke of how "real" Rich was and it's evident in his songs and his ministry.

Being 42 also, Rich's music spoke to me greatly. I help lead the music for our youth group at church and we sing "Step By Step" quite often. It will have a new significance now.

To his family I leave the words to a PETRA song, "Graverobber"

"Many still mourn and many still weep
For those that they love who have fallen asleep
But we have this hope though our hearts may still ache
Just one shout from above and they all will awake
And in the reunion of joy we will see
Death will be swallowed in sweet victory."

Rich, "Well done good and faithful servant."

Love in Christ,
Rusty May Madison
Jude 24-25

I am very saddened by the tragic passing of Rich Mullins. Tho we never met I felt joined with him in the Spirit of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I love his music and someday hoped to see him in concert and meet him. I know someday we will meet again in Heaven. He touched many lives with his music, a precious gift from God. At my church we have what is called Singspiration once a month and as a memorial to the memory of Rich I will do Creed, for the joy it has given me and the words to show what the Lord

has done for all of us. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his mother, family and friends. May the peace that passes all understanding be with you throughout this most difficult time.

God Bless you all.

Frank Hoerner

I would just like to take this opportunity to let you know that Rich and his family (and Mitch) will be in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Cathy Lenter,

St. Paul's University Catholic Center

Madison, WI

Rich meant so much to me. At times when I was at the breaking point of my faith, God would minister to me through Rich's words and music. I can remember the too few opportunities that I had to sit and talk with Rich. During those times I could see Jesus in his eyes, I could hear Jesus in his voice, and I could feel Jesus in his hugs. Heaven's dreamer has gone to live with the Giver of Dreams. I weep. I rejoice. There are too many feelings to describe. I know that the praise of heaven has a more melodious sound now that Rich is with his Awesome God and One Thing.

Vic Morris

This past year has brought many trials and personal losses that brought a dryness in my soul. This morning I cried tears of sadness, joy, and love. Rich's death has helped to soften my heart and tears are flowing again. Psalm 56:8 Thou has taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Thy bottle; Are they not in Thy book?

Julia Offord

I thank my God for Rich and the love he has for the Savior, that
is so evident in his music. Truly, Rich is a man of God.
See ya, soon brother!
Jeffrey

My deepest sympathy on the loss of Rich. Our loss is heaven's
gain. Those of us who were ministered to by his music and
testimony feel like we've lost a close friend even though many of
us never personally met him. Thank God we know where he is today!
! May God comfort and keep you until you are reunited once again!
I am praying for you.

In Christian love,
Anita Davis,
Columbus, Ohio

I haven't cried in a long time.....a long, long time.....I look
forward to the day when I can thank you face to face.....in our
Father's house.....I will miss you Rich..... "Trust in the
Lord with all your Heart, and lean not on your own understanding
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6
Rich Dugan

I am praying for you! Thank you for sharing Rich Mullins with the
rest of the world. Many of his songs are sung in churches, many
more by people as they are heard over the radio, and many lives
have been touched by his faithful ministry. I don't know what you
are feeling but please accept my sincerest condolences. But God
is good! As KLOVE, the Christian radio station that serves my
area in California played a tribute to Rich, they played a song,

whose title escapes me at the moment, with the words "...and He's gonna be the reason when I die." We can all take comfort in the fact the Rich knew where he was going and probably couldn't wait to see Jesus, although he is leaving loved ones behind and many things left unfinished. But once again, I thank you for sharing Rich with the rest of the world as his songs can give the rest of us left behind some hope.

Sincerely,
Gail

To the family of Rich Mullins, I just wanted to express my sorrow over Rich's passing last Friday. Though I had only met him once back in 1992, I have gone to several of his concerts and own most all of his albums. I wish I could find the words to express just how much he and his music will be missed and how greatly they affected my life as well as many others. I have always believed that Rich had a very special gift and I will be blessed for years to come as I re-listen to his music. I will keep you all in my prayers and it is my hope that your entire family will feel the Lord's presence during this difficult time.

God Bless,
Laura Knowles
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Good Night Rich, We'll see you in the Morning!!!
Ryan

Though I am one of those who had never met Rich Mullins or had the pleasure of witnessing his ministry in person, I feel I know him through his music. Being a musician myself, my first response when I heard the news was, "his music will be greatly missed in

all Christendom. I know he is definitely singing "praise to the Lord" now, face to face and continually and singing new songs unto our "awesome GOD". HE wanted him now for whatever reason, I trust GOD in that. My favorite of his was "Faith Without Works".

"Faith is 'bout as useless as a screen door on a submarine" if we don't trust GOD in HIS work. I thank GOD that Rich went out like Elijah with his chariot of fire as he sang about. He's seeing the stars like candles in Central Park. And though it didn't break his heart to say good-bye, it's definitely breaking ours for a long time to come. Now that you've crossed the Jordan, Rich, we know you'll forever be praising GOD. Much love and prayers to his family.

Kenneth Hopkins

Last night my son Graham, our friend Mark and I gathered for our own little remembrance of Rich. Mark has all his albums, and he had picked out at least one song from each. We sat in candlelight and listened, and instead of growing sadder we were filled with a solemn joy as the music washed over us. I am thankful for Rich's creative exuberance, his self-effacing ways, his yearning for heaven. He was an accomplished musician, a poet who handled words as if eternity could burn through them. And he loved. I am glad to have his songs, and to have met him once--briefly, with mutual shyness. May God wrap his mother and siblings in peace, along with the friends and fellow musicians and children whose lives were bound to his.

Ruth Goring

I just had to write a brief message to relay my sympathy and prayers for Rich's family. I met Rich a few different times, but mainly knew him from his music. He so honestly portrayed real life in his songs. There are very few Christian songwriters/singers who have so greatly influenced my walk with the Lord. I am so thankful for Rich and His ministry! He was a

man of No Compromise, a simple man, a GODLY man. I can't help but think of his song "One Thing". He now has the "one thing" that he lived his whole life for! I have peace in my heart as I think of Rich entering the gates of Heaven and meeting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What an AWESOME miracle! I pray that Jesus would hold you in his safe, unfailing, arms as you pass through the upcoming days, weeks, months... He has the grace and power to heal every broken heart! I am lifting you up in prayer to our King!! God Bless.

Because He LIVES-
janel:)

It is indeed a great pleasure to have been introduced to the music of Rich a number of years ago. His lyrics over and over again touched my heart and moved me many times to love more deeply our awesome God. Although many listeners may have never met you, they were able to catch a glimpse of you through your lyrics. How your love for God shone through everything you wrote. Thank you for your encouragement through your words. So sad that you are gone from here, but the Lord welcomes home a faithful servant. My prayers go to Rich's family and also to the family of Mitch. Mitch, may God heal you in His time. Lean hard.
Pamela

Living in Lynn, Indiana I work in a small school where Rich's nieces and nephew have or are still attending. We have been privileged to be able to have a Bible Club that meets every Wednesday morning. One Thanksgiving Rich was coming home to be with his family. He had driven all night but took the time to come to school at 7:30 in the morning to share with our group. It is something our students will always remember. He even made the school yearbook.
Annette Wilson

Rich's music really means a lot to me, and has ministered to me many times in powerful ways (probably because it was so grounded in the Word of God Whom it portrays). We need more self-effacing, and more Scripturally centered Christian artists like Rich, but there will only ever be one Rich, I am sure.

In Christ Jesus,
Amanda V. Gale

I had the privilege of seeing Rich in concert in 1992 in Ashland, OR with many friends, we were in the first two rows and were so blessed by his concert and amazed at the talent of all the musicians he had with him (Jimmy A, Avenue G, and Jeff Sacks). It's hard to understand or imagine why God took Rich from us, but as many have said, we can rejoice and sing praises knowing that he is with his maker and first love. I weep at our loss and will miss the many unwritten songs that we won't hear until we join him in heaven. I can only pray for Rich and Mitch's families, and all of us, for the peace of God to fill us and ease the pain...

Nancy Olsen

Thank you Rich, for the legacy you have left in your music and writing. Through them you have helped lead me to "seek first His kingdom".

Mike Keever

I'd like to offer my condolences to Rich's family. There are so many things I'd like to say about Rich. How his music touched my life. How his open desire to serve our God was an inspiration. How his humble attitude and pure heart served as a goal, and a spark in my open walk with God. I remember growing up, hearing so many of his songs, and not even knowing who wrote them. I think

that's one of the most special things about Rich's work. You didn't listen to it, you didn't buy it, because he wrote it... but because with every pulse, every beat, you could hear God, moving, breathing, and calling. I will miss Rich here on earth. I have grown to love the stories his music told. The passion in the music. I write lyrics and as a lyricist, Rich was often someone I prayed God would help mold me after. I would have loved to have been there when God embraced Rich in heaven, to see such a man of God come home. To see them weep together. My prayers are with your family. I hope you know that I am just one of the many Rich didn't know personally, but touched just as much as those closest to him.

May his peace be with you,
Ami M Jesmer

Rich Mullins's music was one of my heart musics. I couldn't listen to a CD all the way through without being moved to fierce joy and/or tears. I wish I could have known him. The music God blessed him with has helped me to live closer to the ideal of saying "All the way my savior leads me..."

Jim Biard

The news of your son's death has left me- and my co-workers in shock- but we all wish to tell you how much his songs and lifestyle has affected our own. I accepted Christ back in '88- and was very excited about learning more about Christianity. Your son's songs helped me to see the real comfort in both the simplicity and complex issues we all deal with in our walk through life. Rich's album "Wings of Heaven, Stuff on Earth" was so plainly laid out- there is no mistaking what your son was getting across in his music. As you know- your son has encouraged and helped many of us get through the day-to-day living - and I hope and pray for your comfort and acknowledgement that I and many others love your family as our very own.

God bless your entire family,
Dana Hauschildt

Please know that my prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time, but take comfort in knowing that Rich's life touched so many. Rich's lyrics have brought me through several difficult times, and it was his message in "Awesome God" that led me to Christ over ten years ago. I saw him in concert last year, and was so relieved to see a Christian Music celebrity being so real and so humble, and willing to open himself to his audience. We share in your grief, and we share in your joy... knowing that although Rich will be greatly missed, he is already filling the halls of Heaven with glorious music awaiting our arrival.

Sincerely,
Annaleah Morrow
West Palm Beach, FL

"Hold me Jesus, I'm shaking like a leaf" Our song!
Lauren and Mike Mike S. Tessaro

To the Mullins Family, Your son was such a blessing to the Body of Christ. His talent and his heart will be missed by many. I have such wonderful memories of my own children singing your son's songs at an early age.. I would ask them what song they wanted to sing...it was always, "Awesome God." Although it took them awhile to learn every word to the song, the truth of the awesomeness of God was getting thru to my little ones. I'm sure many Christian parents all over the world have similar stories. I pray you find comfort in knowing the impact your son had on the world, for the cause of Jesus!

The Gilligan Family

I met Rich way back in the early eighties when he was traveling with ZION from Cincinnati Bible Seminary. He stayed at our house while he was performing at Campbellsville Christian Church in Kentucky. You could tell even then of his terrific talent and also of his being influenced strongly by the Holy Spirit. I still have one of the old ZION albums with the original recording of "Sing Your Praise to the Lord." I have followed his career thru the years and have always been struck by his Sincerity. He really believed what he said. You can't say that about all Christian artists. Especially now that it has become so commercialized. I got to talk to him briefly last year after his concert in Birmingham, Alabama (where I live know). It was the same old Rich. He even remembered some of the people from Campbellsville Christian.

Barry Montgomery

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Our prayers are with your family. When I heard about the accident it broke our hearts. We know that Rich is up in heaven singing praises. My niece Misty wrote this for your family.

You gave your life to music, and God listened.
You sang your notes and we listened.
You lost your life and we grieve.
You gained new life and God receives.

Again our prayers are with you.

Sincerely,
Tammy Fox James and Shirley Tilton Misty McCants
Conroe, Texas

I've listened to his music over the years, faithfully as a loyal fan. Now, I find myself listening very closely and hearing him spell out clearly the Christian life and how we are to live in reverence to God. He never watered down the message of Christ, as many Christian Musicians do. I loved the way he said things. I will always think of Leah as "there for dramatic effect" and Ester cooking the king some "supper". I will miss never hearing any new music from him and hearing where he's been, since that always came out in the rhythms, instruments and words he uses. I had the pleasure to meet him and I got a sense of his nature as a man of God. We should all be such a lover of God.. My prayers are for his family and all those who loved him. Especially Eric Houck who was a friend of his and a friend of mine.

In Christ,
Cindy Greenwald

Rich was the first artist I ever saw perform live, as the opening act for Amy Grant's Unguarded tour. He was a remarkable talent, and I'll miss him.

--John A. Heaton

To God be the glory... Rich is finally home!

I would like all to know that Rich Mullins spoke to many people through his songs. We here at Aggie Awakening A-Staff chose "Hope to Carry On" as our song to be played for all the Staffers this past Sunday, not knowing of Rich's passing on to a better place the day before. We will now play it as a tribute for his awesome life example as a Christian. Our hearts and prayers go out to Rich, his family, his friends, and to Mitch McVicker and his family. We will all miss him.

Angel Staff
College Station, TX

I found out about the death of Rich while in a Christian Woman's chat room. I was shocked when I heard; I couldn't believe it. I cried. Rich was a great singer. I sometimes wonder "Why" but I know God is in control. Like so many others have said, he is now in a better place, singing praises (like my mom said) "in a heavenly choir". I can't wait to see him again some day. I really enjoyed his music and loved to listen to it. I just wanted his family to know that he will not be forgotten and that what he has done for God has reached and impacted people.

B Bedford

i did not learn of rich's death till mon night on my way home, i am filled with sorrow at the loss of such a great singer and happy for him to be at peace, the first time i ever heard of him was at a retreat in il with iv when a friend played awesome God, best song i ever heard, his music has helped guide me an heal me from that time, shortly after coming to Christ and till now and will always. the one concert of his i made in marion il was the best show of any kind i ever had the pleasure of attending. heaven is a more musical place now...

paul lisson

The stuff of earth competes for the allegiance we owe only to King. When he left, he went out like Elijah. Aidan, let mercy lead. Thank You, God, for the poet you gave us; and comfort His family in their sorrow.

Tim Gillis

It is amazing how many lives God touched through Rich's life. It is inspiring to me to see what God can do when we surrender our lives as servants.

List Cantrell

The tragic news of the death of Rich Mullins greatly shocked my husband and I. His lyrics, which were no doubt inspired by God, has touched my life in so many ways for so many years. Lyrics which are so poetic and picturesque. Lyrics that also make us think. Just as so many lives were touched by those lyrics and saved as the result, may this tragedy do the same in the hearts of the unbeliever. And may this help strengthen our walk as christians, that we will love and help one another and tell others of God's grace. This is a sad time for us but angels are rejoicing for Rich is finally home. He has finally seen the face of his best friend. Rich Mullins will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and prayers go out to family and friends.

Love in Christ,
Colleen and Mark Whiteford

Rich will be missed by all who loved him but his legacy will live on in his music. He used his talents to glorify his God which is evident by his lyrics. We know he is home with his Savior because of the finished work of the cross. Rich, Thanks for being a willful servant of Christ. I'm sure you heard Christ say "Welcome home thou good and faithful servant"

From
J Langford

Rich has touched the lives of so many. God gave him a incredible

gift for words, and a love for others. It's sad to say, but Rich became my "wake up call". I have been on a spiritual roller coaster, or I guess as far to say-an Identity Crisis. I am 16 years old and have been a christian now for nine years. But a few months ago, I took the wrong path. I started to drink, smoke and even as far as loosing something I was going to save for my mate-My virginity. Every night I would cry and feel so bad for all the wrong in my life, but in my heart I knew nothing would change. Sunday, (Sept.21) while getting ready for church my mom told that Rich had died. My heart broke into a million pieces. As I cried, I began to pull out all of the cd's I had by Rich. As I listened to the words, God broke me. I had realized what a impact he made in so many peoples lives. He had always let his light shine. With Rich's God given talent to write and sing I now could see the real truth of Christ and come back to reality with God. I had been set free!! I now know who I am with God, where I stand and the changes I need to make. I only wish I could tell Rich of the "180" that took place in my life Sunday morning. I plan to start a Girls Bible study-and in memory of Rich, It will be called "Peace" With God...

...Rich, You can now play face to face with the one and only "Awesome God".

J Langford

My husband and I are musicians. Rich Mullins was the only Christian artist who didn't seem to fit the "christian music" mold - for us he was as exciting, passionate and honest as the secular artists we listen to. Thank you, Rich, for being brave and authentic in your music, for letting your true self hang out there. Thank you for going beyond the platitudes and challenging us. And for giving the glory to God.

Victoria Kazarian

Rich will be missed by all who loved him but his legacy will live on in his music. He used his talents to glorify his God which is evident by his lyrics. We know he is home with his Savior because of the finished work of the cross. Rich, Thanks for being a willful servant of Christ. I'm sure you heard Christ say "Welcome home thou good and faithful servant"

P Alexander

I can still see my husband lying in a hospital bed under going a plasma treatment that was to save his life --- headphones on his head singing along with Rich "my God You are my God and I will ever praise You" This was our theme song- that "Step by step" He would lead us through that difficult time. His music ministered to us then and will continue to- for us and others, until we are all together praising God in heaven. Rich will be missed and I can hardly wait to meet up with him in heaven and thank him for being obedient to God and for using the talents that God so richly blessed him with. My prayers are with the family as they go through this trying time. May they find comfort in knowing that Rich is where he so looked forward to going to and that someday they will be there too.

R. Zimmerman

This really is a tragedy, but when you think about it, look at all the songs that Rich wrote about "going home" The one that constantly comes to mind is "The Land of My Sojourn" off of Liturgy...the bridge points out so eloquently how we are just here temporarily. Although it is a great loss to Christian music, I know rich is at home with the Lord...where he has longed to be. I truly believe Rich was ready to go whenever God was ready to take him. He was an inspiration to me (the main reason I became a Compassion sponsor), both in his music, ministry and his life. It is difficult to come by a better role model for Christians than

he. I only hope that when I go, I'll have made some kind of impact on people, the way that he has. That people will say, and more importantly, God will be able to look at me and see a humble servant.

All the glory be to God...
Shelly Heidt
Master of Divinity Student,

We weep not only for the loss of a gifted musician and songwriter. We weep for the loss of a friend. We can call him a friend if we've heard his music. For it was through this music that we knew him, both the joy and the struggle of a life lived for God. Rich's legacy will carry on in the hearts of those whom he touched. Reminding us of the greatness of God and the frailty of man. May each of us walk in the compassion that marked Rich's life. May we regain a sense of wonder when contemplating the works of God: His creation, His grace, His love. Heaven will now enjoy the music that we will greatly miss. Our tears are tears of pain. Yet as Rich gazes into the face of Love this day, we can almost see his tears, shed for the joy of coming home.

Jeff Fuhry

Although the loss of Rich is hard for us to accept, it must be a tremendous loss to those who were part of his life. And I thank all of you for the encouragement you gave to him, for he certainly increased it and gave it to us! I hope to lovingly pass it on for the rest of my life. God Bless You and may He soon greatly lessen your pain!

With the Genuine Love of God,
Elaine McCauley Corbett

I saw Rich Mullins and Mitch McVickers and the rest of the band at a CIY conference in Indiana. After their concert, I went up to talk to them. I really did not get to speak much with Rich or Mitch. The drummer allowed us to come up and check out the equipment. He even lets us play it. I was very glad that I got to see the concert. I had heard of Rich before, but I had never really heard much of his music. The concert was great.

I just wanted to say how much I will miss Rich. He touched my life in that one day. He was an ambassador for Christ.

God bless,
Carrie Downs

Along with the shock that comes with such tragic and puzzling news, I remembered Keith Green and how his death also seemed to come too soon for a man of God who is being so passionately used by God. I wonder why the Lord would allow the death of someone who seems so useful and needed here on earth, but then I thought of how Keith's influence has been stronger for the Lord since his death. I believe it will be the same with Rich, and I also believe that Rich wouldn't have it any other way. His ministry hasn't ended; it's barely begun, but Rich is now able to speak to God face to face as did Moses. I am sure this is something Rich has longed for. Now he has the best of both worlds. He can be in the arms of His Savior, and his music can be in the heart of the people...ever drawing them closer to the Savior he could no longer be apart from.

Haley Malone

The only lullabies that I could remember when Madi and Kenan were tiny, were choruses from God You Are My God, Awesome God and Daniel in the Den of the Lions. It is no small thing that each of those songs that soothed them and me were written by the same

person-I appreciate such upbringing that would raise such a nifty son-to write honestly, unashamedly and humbly about such a great God. I am sorry for your loss-I wish I could ease the squeeze on your heart.. I wonder who will take up his mantle-as he wrote "I want to go out like Elijah..." There are plenty of Navajo kids who need the energy, humor and leadership. And we all needed his encouragement and gift of music. We will continue to pray for Mitch and the families involved.

allie lousch

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family,

Yesterday morning was Monday, I sat down with my coffee and local paper to eat breakfast, like I do most every morning. When I got to the obituary page, I glanced over it, and then I saw it: a brief announcement on Rich's accident. I sat and stared at it, as if transfixed; I went numb, I read and reread it, not quite comprehending what I saw in front of me. I went through the day stunned, every once and a while shedding tears for a man I never met, yet one I felt I knew. It was a beautiful fall day, but somehow it seemed especially quiet, as if even nature knew what had happened.

I never had the opportunity to meet Rich, although I would have liked to. My only claim in that direction is having met 2 of his dogs several years ago. We had gone to see Rich at Eastern College, and when we left, it had begun to drizzle. We passed a pick-up truck with Kansas plates on it that held 2 yellow labs in the back. Being a great dog lover, I couldn't walk past them without patting them. They were damp, but well behaved, did not appear to be upset that I leaned into the truck to pat them. My inclination was to stick around so I could bawl Rich out for leaving his dogs out in the cool, damp air, but I figured he'd be a while, and then I would be cool and damp!

Rich's music has made a major impact on my life and I will

treasure it for as long as I live. He had an openness and honesty that I have not seen in many Christians, let alone someone in the public eye. We saw his doubts and struggles, his fights with God, and his moments of seeing His glory. His was a vulnerable life in front of so many, and we all benefitted from what we saw -- I only hope that he did too. We listened to his encouragement, we laughed at his jokes, we sat silent as we heard how much God loves us.

To be able to reach out and touch a life is one of the most precious gifts I think God can give to someone, and Rich certainly did that for so many of us. He never appeared to be anything other than who he was, he was real, not plastic, he spoke his mind, he loved others and he served God. He used his music to awaken us, to remind us, to show us how human we all are, and in doing so, he could reach the parts of us that we didn't want anyone else in. He really was one in a million, and I know I will miss him dearly.

My prayers, along with those of countless fans, are with you and your family at this time. May God comfort you and surround you with His peace.

Thank you so much for sharing your son with us. We loved him very much, he will remain in our hearts and lives forever. It is with great joy that I look forward to singing with Rich around the throne of God.

Sincerely, in Christian love,
Judi Lemay-Lusk
Roslyn, PA

I thank God for time that he allowed Rich to minister to us. His music was an inspiration to me and I'm glad that he followed God's will as a singer and songwriter. My prayers go out to his family and friends. I can just see him now singing in the heavenly chorus with the angels. He fulfilled his time here on earth and is now in a better place. I can't wait until the day when we will

all be united together and sing the praises of our Lord and God. Yes, we will miss you Rich, but we praise God for the time that you were here on earth.

Jared M. Blankenship

Glory to God for sending us such a sincere song writer! We have been blessed with the time that Rich spent with us here on earth. My prayers go out to his family as well as to the family of his friend. Imagine how much better the music is in heaven now!

Pat Motschenbacher

I had a chance to meet Rich last October. What a character! I will truly miss him and any music he might have gotten from God if he would still be here today! God touched me so much through his music! He will truly be missed!

Brenda Jones

My son and I met Rich on several occasions. I helped coordinate his concerts in Atlanta. He was the most gentle spirit I had ever met. On one occasion, the concert was late opening the doors, due to some technical difficulties. After approximately 30 min., the concert was ready to begin. But, I couldn't find Rich. Finally, I found him sitting barefoot(as usual) on the steps in the hallway, talking to my 8 year old son. He was giving him advise on how to sing and not to be afraid, in his choir performance. When I asked Rich if he was ready, his reply was, " In a minute, your son needs me". I will NEVER forget his love and compassion for others. Rich was the closest man, I had ever met, that walked like JESUS.

My experiences with him has blessed my life forever.

Stephanie Hemond

Thank you so much for sharing your son with the world. The legacy Rich leaves us is a unique one in that we can all turn the lyrics he penned to comfort us. We all loved him, even those of us who didn't know him personally. Please take comfort in the knowledge that his life was lived to the fullest for the glory of God. That is truly the highest praise any human could receive. He surely heard the words of God, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Our prayers are with you at this time of loss.

Debbie Tidwell

It is hard for me to hear a Rich Mullins song now without my eyes watering a bit. It was a great loss for me as Rich's music was a great source of inspiration for me in my early walk as a Christian. He is a man I wish I had a opportunity to speak with if only for a few minutes. I am thankful that I was able to shake his hand and tell him that I appreciated him and his music after a concert this past summer. My grief is overshadowed in the light that Rich is in the presence of the Lord singing "Our God is an awesome God".

In Christ.

John Kreuz

Music is something that has always touched my soul. At times, music can soften my heart enough to let God's words reach me. I feel a sense of great loss, now that one of the truly gifted people in God's music, has died. Rich Mullins' songs are a part of my daily life (I sing 'Step by Step' every morning). I will forever be grateful for his ministry. My prayers are with his family and friends. May God give you peace.

In Christ,

Vivian Dubetz

I was terribly heartbroken to hear of the untimely death of Rich Mullins.

I wish to extend my condolences to his family and friends and all those who were close to him.

Driving home from my mothers' out-of-state funeral in 1989, I was greatly comforted by listening to his CD and singing the words from "If I Stand". Then after a radio announcer on KWBI announced his death, they played that song. I broke down in tears. Not because he had died necessarily, but for joy for him.

I know he will be greatly missed, and I hope and pray that knowing that he is in the presence of our wonderful Savior will bring comfort.

I will pray for Mitch, that he will have a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Wiebe

I came across this today and it seemed to help my grief:

"When you remember me, it means you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. I means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart."

---Frederick Buechner

He will be often remembered.
Shari

I am so sorry to hear about your loss but so thrilled for Rich's gain!!!! His music and life has touched us all and I keep my prayers with you during your times of trouble... He said he wanted to go out like Elijah and if he did or not I know he's a lot happier now..

in His love
Wendy

The world has been stopped to think - about death and life. Death is no respecter of age, or wealth. In the past few weeks Princess Diana, Mother Theresa, and now Rich Mullins. My tears flow freely for our loss of Rich. He gave so much. I pray people would be forced to think - death comes at an instance, so quick. Are you prepared? I know where Rich is - home indeed with the Lord.
Tim Coles

To Rich's Mom and family,

You have a son to be proud of, a son who served the Lord, a son who changed my life. Desperate, in pain, and having lost hope, I stuck in "Hold Me Jesus". He did, and that song and CD became very familiar in our home. Jesus used Rich to "put me back together". Thank you for raising a son who was so willing to give and serve. I wish I could carry some of your pain - ease the hurt and loss. We will remember you before the Lord in the weeks and months to come. Also our prayers will be for the full recovery of the other man injured.

"sometimes my life just doesn't make sense at all, when the mountains look so big and my faith just seems so small So hold me Jesus....."

We pray the Lord's loving arms around you at this time, and truly mourn your loss and the loss of a true man of God.

Tim & Christine Coles

To Rich's Family,

I am so looking forward to meeting Rich in heaven. He leaves a truly incredible legacy, in his music. I never saw him in concert, which I will always regret, yet the lyrics of his songs made a profound impact on my husband and myself. There are not many artists out there who put the truth of the Word into their songs without apology or a pop theme. We will listen to, give as gifts, and treasure the music that Rich gave so unselfishly.

We were very shaken, when we heard of Rich's death. We cannot even imagine how you feel. We are truly sorry, but also joyfully looking forward to the reunion in heaven. God's sovereignty and plan are often hard to understand, but as little children, we trust that everything is for the best.

Jeremiah 29:11

In Christ,

Marilyn Cryder

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

Thank you for the gift of your son to the Church. He challenged me with his life. He has challenged me even more with his death.

I am sorry that he is not with you anymore. Your grief must be very great. May the Lord whom you serve bring comfort to your heart.

Chris Smith

To Rich's family and friends,

It is impossible to put to words how much Rich's music ministry has impacted my life. It is honestly hard to say not to say that a big hole in my heart is left by this tragedy. I was in the greatest amount of disbelief when I heard the terrible news. Even now as I write this I am torn and grief stricken. Rich Mullins has been there since the day I accepted the Lord into my life. One week after I became a Christian, I went to my first Christian concert which was a Rich Mullins concert. I was amazed. No other musician can move me in the same way. I have gone to almost every concert of his within a four hour driving range, and I never tire because his music and words encourage me into a deeper knowledge and devotion to our Lord. I praise the Lord for giving to all of us this great man of God and for giving me the opportunity to share in his life. I will miss you, Rich. May the Lord continue to bless and grow His ministry where you served.

Audrey Chun

One of my best friends just told me of Rich Mullins' exit from this world. This friend had introduced me to Rich's music about four years ago, at a very difficult time in my life. Since then I've loved all of Rich's work and it has and will continue to be a source of worship and encouragement for me. I'll miss whatever new music he might have been working on, but as someone else pointed out, God gets to hear all of Rich's new songs now. There was so much in his music that made it clear that he was wanting ever more to be in the presence of God, and now he is there, and it is good. For our hearts it is sad to see him go, but one day we'll be with him and more importantly with our God, looking back at this "candle lighting central park" and we'll no longer have to long for our home, but together with Rich we'll sing the praises of our Awesome God. Meanwhile we can carry on with the legacy that Rich left us, reaching out to those in need and telling them

about the gospel - the one thing that we all need. I will pray for his family and the others involved in the accident.

K. Stigers

Thanks for all the great music, Rich. I'm sure he's singing praises to the Lord like he never dreamed. We all know that Rich has reached that wonderful place he's been singing about all these years. Good-bye, Rich. I'll see you some day.

Mike Tait

Words cannot express the loss you are facing as a mother and family. If I could reach out and hug you I would. Your son's life meant something. You will grieve and hurt, but it is not in vain. Rich's music carried me through many hard times when I needed to look to the Lord. I don't know why God works the way He does. I could give you a hundred speculations on why he died, but you will still be broken and empty. I am truly sorry for your loss, yet thankful that Rich has finally met the God He craved in his heart. He is finally whole.

John A. Pontius

I would just like to let the people who love Rich know how extensively God used his music and his faith in my life.

I met Rich when I was 16 years old. He was a friend of my youth pastor at that time, and Ken asked ZION to come and kick off our youth rally. The first time I saw him, he was in camo pants, a black t-shirt, and no shoes! I thought it was so cool, and wished I had the guts to be myself amidst the trappings of my very traditional southern baptist upbringing.

That was just the beginning of my love affair with the music God gave Rich. More importantly, my love affair with my God. His passion for his God was something I had never witnessed before, and it was something I began to hunger for. I began to realize what it meant to have a "relationship" with God. Each time I saw him after that, I would search his eyes to see if the same passion was still there. Each time I only found it to be Stronger.

That 16 year old girl, who fell in love with her God, at the prompting of a barefoot pianist , in the middle of a stained glass sanctuary, is now almost 35. There have been ups and downs. Rich's music is a tool God chose to use consistently in my life. When an artist writes with the honesty and intensity Rich does, you tend to feel somehow akin to him. Like you somehow know him, The loss I feel must diminish miserably in the shadow of those who got to share his life. I just wanted to let you know...He shed light wherever God took him. He was real. He was important to me.

I know it didn't "break his heart to say goodbye".... but it sure did break mine to loose him.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my appreciation and loyalty.

Cindy

I believe he went out like he wanted to...like Elijah!! My family will miss him very much. But, we know where he is tonight and we should joyful in knowing that. His music has inspired my brother, Andrew. He is now trying to make it in "the business" now. My brother has met Rich on several occasions and we know what an fantastic man Rich is. Thank God for the many blessings Rich has given us through HIM. He will be missed. Everyone here at Florida Christian College will be keeping you all in our prayers. May God bless you and keep you always until we see Rich again.

June

Share our sorrow and sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Rich Mullins. He will no doubt be sorely missed; but, in his abbreviated life, I believe he truly pursued the vision God gave him. Because of his ministry, thousands of people have been and will be touched. I am reminded of the Ray Boltz song, "Thank You" because I am sure Rich was greeted in heaven by many who wanted to say "Thank You". Rich can't hear me now, but I want to say to you, the special people in his life, Thank You for sharing this wonderful man with us for a time. May our Precious Lord lift you up in His Hand and assure you of His Everlasting Love and Care!

Yours in Christ,
Tammy Braye & Family

Heaven has a new resident to glorify God in song.... face-to-face..... forever more.
Jeffrey

I just want to say I am so sorry for Rich Mullin's family. I know they have lost a very special person as has the whole world. I pray that God strengthens you through this time and fills your heart with peace.

God Bless
Elizabeth Baker.

Ever since I heard the news I have found myself crying for this great loss, though I know it is heaven gain. Still the tears that have stream down a path I have not seen it years...my heart convicted and torn wanting to cry out to Lord, "Take ME!!!!" For I have done little to tell not the world, but simply my neighbor

about Jesus. I cry instead..."hold me Jesus, 'cause I'm shakin' like a leaf." It was ten years ago Rich Mullins played the week before me at Koinonia. "You oughta hear this guy they said." When I did finally, it was like words whispered from heaven. There not much else to say, but God is God and nothin' else matters.

Thanks
Bascue

Rich's family,

His strength is perfect, when our strength is gone!!! Hold on and keep looking to Jesus! You are in our prayers here in Loveland, Ohio! I went to CBC and really feel a loss with you!! Just remember that it is true!! OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!! We love Rich and we love you!!!

Brian Richard

I'm sad, but I can't help but rejoice for all the wondrous works God did through Rich. Although I will miss the anticipation of a new Rich Mullins album, I know the praising of God will go on through Rich's music. I am living proof of that every time I drive my car. All praise and glory be to God our Father for the life, music, and ministry of Rich Mullins!

Thank you Rich, for the message of life and grace your music and ministry relentlessly communicated. As someone else wrote....
"Oh, the love of God!"

C. Hurney

I had the opportunity to share Rich's music with my youth ministry on Sunday, Sept. 20th with over 100 students. Some had heard of his tragic death, but many had not. Hearing Rich's music wasn't something new for us, but listening to the lyrics knowing that Jesus was holding him; knowing that he has seen our Awesome God face to face; knowing that the creed that has made him was real; and knowing that he was no longer weeping as a man longing for his home, but he was truly home, made his music that much sweeter! We hurt for the lose of our brother, but we rejoice that he joins the angels singing to our Savior a song higher than our own!

See you soon Rich,

Jeff Jakes and the youth at Orangewood Pres. in Maitland, FL

He was a truly spirit-filled man that touched the hearts of many. I fully enjoyed the style of music that he wrote. His words put so much of what I felt into words. I will miss him, though there is a strong sense of peace that he is where he wanted most to be. He was an example of how we should live our lives for God because one day we will be with God. My prayers are with his family and friends that knew him personally.

Robert Walker

The way that Rich lived for God was remarkable. When I think of Rich one of the first words to come to my head is REAL. I believe one of the reasons Rich's ministry was so great, is because he was real with himself, real with people, most important real with God. How much would we be taught by God and used by God for His glory if we could just be real.

Jennifer

He was one of the few Christian artists I felt that I could really relate to. His songs really conveyed a genuine Christian walk that was sometimes a struggle, an uphill climb, but always a joy. I will truly miss his work and encouragement.

Youth Minister

My story probably echoes so many others out there... I was deeply stunned by the news of Rich's death, concerned for those he left behind, and comforted by knowing that he can see clearly the Jesus he tried so hard to view with the clouded, dark glasses we all have to wear while we live on this earth. Rich and his music have meant so much to me and my husband. His concert in 1993 was our first date, and our first glimpse of what it would be like to praise the Lord in unity of spirit and voice. You see, we were married last July, just a couple months after we saw Rich again in April--not knowing then that it would be the last time we would see him here on earth. I wanted to tell Rich what special memories those are for us... but I never did. Since he is in a place untouched by pain, these words are no longer meant for Rich, but for those who love him and may be hurting, wondering why God took him home. Please read this and know he served God well and that is all any of us can ask for our short pilgrimage here.

Ellen Bergstrom

I couldn't believe how hard the news of Rich's death hit me. I was at the Franklin Graham Festival in Sioux Falls when I heard the news. I wouldn't believe it though until I heard it on the radio. I first heard Rich's music in 1996. From that day his music has been a very important part of my life. I praise God for the talent He gave to Rich and I thank Him for allowing Rich to share that with us here on earth. I had the privilege of meeting Rich twice. Those memories will always be with me. His music challenged me, comforted me, and inspired me to worship. Never has any one person's music meant so much to me. Thank you to his

family for sharing Rich with us. You are in my thoughts and prayers. It gives me comfort to know that I am not alone in my grief. I rejoice in the fact that Rich is with our God and that he is able to share his music with heaven.

Sandy

I am so pleased that my husband and I were able to hear and see Rich at the concert at St. Timothy's Catholic Church last year. He was talented and modest and brought his humor with his music. Our family will miss his songs but are blessed to have had his music in our lives. I can't tell you how many times his music has made helped me out of a "blue" day or helped me focus on God and serving Him better.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Rich's family.
The Lane Family

Rich was my age and spoke though all of the phoniness and pretention.

Sincerely,
Cindy Cowsert

To whom it may concern; I wish to express my depth sympathy to the family of Mr. Rich Mullins. Several months ago I bought his album Rich Mullins Songs because I needed a new CD. I was truly blessed and pray that you can find comfort in his song "Hold me Jesus".

My prayers are with you,
Amy Cypret

What a tremendous writer. I have used his songs so many times in ministry. Right now, I think he's talking to Elijah, about how awesome our God is!

James L. Smith

To Mrs. Mullins,

I want to express my deepest sympathy in the loss of your son. He was a hero of mine and I grieve with you as one who has the hope of the resurrection. Please know my prayers are with you and your family at this time. May you have Peace in God's will and say with confidence that He doeth all things well.

By His Grace,
Shelby Browning
Nashville TN

I didn't realize it until he died, but he was my favorite male singer (slow division). His music has grown on and in me over the past two years. I have worn out my Liturgy tape listening to it over the past year. Whenever I am depressed I listen to his music for encouragement. The words mean so much...he had such a heart for God. I wonder if he is still writing songs in heaven...I hope so. Can you imagine his version of "Hold Me Jesus" now after actually having been in His arms. I'll miss his message and his heart.

Kerry A. Smith

I met Rich Mullins while he was doing a concert at my church. I wasn't sure what he looked like. And while the band was there earlier in the day setting up for the concert. I noticed this guy

with long hair and barefoot. I thought he was a stagehand. He didn't talk much and did his job. Carried boxes and such and was very polite and seem to respect so much. I assumed he was a worker. Later that night, the concert began. There was an opening band and then that same stage hand came out with a guitar. Didn't introduce himself, just started to worship God. I leaned over to my husband and asked who that was, I thought, 'wow, what a talented stagehand'. My husband said "that's Rich Mullins. From that day on I was blown away with his humbleness and a great heart for God! Since that day in Redding, California I tried to seek that humbleness, but yet confidence in God. We saw him again in Spain and he was the same. I've also had a hard time to not compare him with other bands. Because, like I said, I thought he was a stagehand. He wasn't acting like he deserves to be "wined and dined". Just humble.....God is even more blessed today to have Rich so close to His side. Thank you precious God for allowing us to be so blessed by Your music through Rich.....Amen.

Rick

You finally made it, You see Jordan from the other side. No more a longing heart, Now you have the Son in your eyes.

I can't help but wonder, Why it had to be your time. But God is so Sovereign, And makes foolish the wise.

And Heaven rejoices, While the earth just weeps. And I know I see the smile, Of the One Who Keeps you and me.

J. Lain

I am so very sorry for your loss. I lost my wonderful Christian son in an automobile accident on March 29 of this year, so I can truly say, "I know how you feel". The Lord is our hope and our refuge, but remember, you have every right to grieve. Be kind to

yourself. We will see our sons in Heaven someday, but until then they will be greatly missed. I will pray for you.

In Christ's love,
Kathy Ganey

This one is from Hawaii...from a guy on a rock in the middle of a sea. Rich came in concert twice since I became a serious believer, I saw him three times. He helped me to see what it really meant to be doing what you can for the Lord, and not losing perspective on what is important.

His concert was my first live Christian concert experience, and it started off like no other concert I have been to. My friends and I (about 20 of us or so), crowded the glass doors of the First Assembly of God where the concert was being held 3 hours or so ahead of time to ensure securing the best seating. We sat there talking and praying, and someone suggested worship, so three guys went to get their guitars and we started singing.

We saw some cars pass by and guys get out, and it seemed as though there were people arriving to prepare for the concert (sound checks, instrument setup, etc.). After about 15 minutes, I noticed one of them had strayed from the stage area and come out to the glass doors out front. He quietly had slipped out and was approaching our group. I thought, "Oh no, we're making too much noise, so we better stop or something so we don't get kicked out." But then he just stopped and listened to us sing. He came closer, and I pointed out to my friend who invited me, "Hey, isn't that Rich?" My friend looked up and his eyes became bigger than I had ever seen it to that point, and also since then, and soon, we were all marveling that the musician we had come to see was listening to us worship. He encouraged us to continue, and after a song or two, he shared a song he was not going to record with us.

I wish I remembered everything now, but I only remember the experience. He then told us to go home, because we were crazy to be coming this early and waiting in line, but we naturally were

not going to even think about leaving. He went back in and called Beaker, and they both thought we were nuts.

They then went to get a bite to eat and were 1/2 an hour late to the concert because they couldn't find their way back to the church, but they made up for it in a big way by extending the concert for another hour. It was so good.

The thing that touched me most was that this musical miracle was willing to wait after the concerts were over to sign every autograph, take every picture, and shake every hand that was extended to him along with words of encouragement, an occasional prayer for someone who needed it then and there, and a warm, broad smile. This told me that no matter how high up I got in the eyes of men, or how gifted I felt I had become, I would always need to practice the deeds and works of simple faith in order to truly please our heavenly Father.

I wish that I could share more with all of you of what my thoughts are, but I believe I have been conceited enough for a day.

I only would like to add that Rich's favorite island in Hawaii was Maui, and I gave him his "I survived the road to Hana" T-shirt, so he could remember his favorite island. I don't know if he still has it, but if you find it, I ask that you give it to his youngest relative as a gift to his family from me.

My aloha (love) and mahalo (thanks) to his family and friends.

God be with you all, and may the peace that transcends all understanding be yours in Christ Jesus.

Kendall

Rich Mullins made a difference in my life. I never met him personally, but I was touched by the Holy Spirit when I experienced his music. I praise the Lord for His creation. For

the gifts given without repentance. For Rich Mullins and the life he lived so well. Rich Mullins was the servant who was given five talents of gold, and returned ten to his master! Thank you Rich. Your song was not sung in vain. And with the prairies I am calling out your name...

Barry

I am sorry to say that I've only been fortunate enough to see him in concert once--back in I guess 1989 when World as Best as I Remember It was out. I knew who he was from songs on the radio, and I won a ticket to the concert. It was incidentally my first concert period as I recall. Anyway, It was at George Fox college in Newberg, Oregon, and I despite being situated in the balcony and being unable to distinctly hear, I was impressed with both his sense of fun and humor as well as his (and his ensemble's) level of musical excellence. He sang a lot of songs from World as Best of course, as well as some classics, like Awesome God and Alrightokuhhuhamen. He also did a really fun performance of "Screen door on a submarine," and I for a song (about Noah, I think) for which he had the audience simulate--through tapping, finger-snapping, knee-slapping, and foot-stomping, an rising torrent of rainfall. Very fun. I remember he had long hair and a pair of too-large! shorts that kept slipping down. Overall I had a great time.

Over the years I received the opportunity to glimpse the man behind the performer, and I've discovered many things--a dreamer, a thinker, a servant, a teacher, a poet, a musician, and a man of God. My sorrow at his passing is a purely selfish urge--regret at the loss of opportunity to once again see him in person and indulge my hero-worship, and also regret at the loss of future music from this talented man. It is selfish, for he now dwells in the place that he ever looked toward--the winds of heaven.

Joel P. Shempert

Being an American living in Australia I have seen firsthand the grief over the death of Princess Di. It didn't mean much to me. And then yesterday I got the news of Rich going home. His music and words have been a significant part of my journey as a Christian. One of my first thoughts was how similar this situation is to Keith Green. It seems that sometimes there is a life that is truly devoted to God and He allows us to share in that life for only a short time. Of anyone Rich deserved to go home and be with God early. I am jealous and sad though. I always looked forward to new albums which contained insights into life with God. I can't wait to see Rich "live" in concert in heaven.

up on the underside,
Rev Kev

Rich Mullins music was an inspiration to me and my husband. We will miss his music and all the various different faiths he represented.

Mrs. Dingledein

Hi -

our hearts generally bog down with words - so I wrote this poem instead - the language of poetry is mysterious and intense -
Rich

Your poverty of spirit
always made me Rich
your human heart's compassion
sung in perfect pitch
and every where I go
I'll see you
when listening to the wind
I know that you'll be listening

the People were your friend
true to your true calling
you have made me see
I'm older and I'm wiser
I fall on bended knee
offer up this praise
you are gone
my heart is torn
prayers to heaven raise
brother fair you were more
than Rich you were gold pure
offering us pure sunshine
opened heaven's door
inside my soul
you still live
for tears do fill these eyes
native peoples will remember
the world as you remembered it
your name across the sky
and every where I go
I'll see you
my brother - you were more
a saint - an angel shattered
sweet prophet of the Lord -

I miss you -

thank you for listening
Lynn Prescott
Los Angeles, CA

Rich was one of the artists that really hooked me on Contemporary Christian Music. Our pastor said a prayer for him Sunday morning and I turned on the radio after church to make sure it was THE Rich Mullins. He has touched my life and I will always carry his songs in my heart. My children love "Awesome God" and "Sing Your Praise to the Lord" especially. God's peace to Rich's Family as we know he is in good hands. Think of the songs he'll be writing

in heaven!

Ralph Brown

I'm still cant believe he's gone...I figured he would be here forever...I took his music for granted..and him also...he spoke to my heart about God, about friends, about life...At 36, I had found someone who was a kindred spirit, and I'll never see him again, but I have my memories..wonderful spirit-filled memories...they will last forever..and he is with our Father...In a way, it makes me so happy he's there..so happy...and then I think of his family, Beaker and I know the pain they feel...I pray for them and the McVicker family..I pray for your peace and I'm sorry I have to let you know this way how much he meant to me personally..I guess I never knew until now...

Be God's

John Kenna

As I have thought over the last couple of day's about Rich's death and passing to heaven, I thought of the time I was able to meet him. Our pastor had suggested to myself and the other youth leaders at our church that a neat program idea was to try to contact a well known Christian - an athlete, a celebrity, or singer, and try to arrange a phone conference with our group - we would call him, then have the youth assemble in the pastor's office and talk to him via speakerphone. Since Rich was living in Wichita at the time, I thought of him instantly - it wouldn't even be long distance! To our surprise and joy, his immediate reaction was "Why talk on the phone? - I'll come to your youth group meeting."

On the planned night, I waited at the door to show him to the room while the other leaders began the meeting. He drove up in his pickup truck with the doghouse in the back, walked to the door,

and when I walked up to greet him, he said " I'm Rich Mullins, and I am supposed to speak to the youth group". The humility of this man was overwhelming! First to take time to talk to out group, then to think he'd need to identify himself! He'd spoken to the kids for over an hour , answering questions about his ministry and living the Christian Life, when finally my wife said "Would you sing something?". He replied, "Sure, is there a piano anywhere?". We moved into the sanctuary, he encouraged us to all gather around the piano and we sang with him for nearly another hour! Between songs he would stop to tell about what was behind the lyrics.

His music has touched me deeply, his lyrics were so powerful, but even more knowing just a little of the man behind them made his music even more moving. His witness to the Lord he loved much will carry on. I pray that God's comfort will lift up all Rich's loved ones.

Marty Hunt

I was truly saddened to hear of Rich's death. His music touched my life in so many ways. The Holy Spirit used Rich's music to help me see the face of Jesus. I was fortunate enough to see him in concert twice and I truly respected his humble ways and his sense of humor. I feel as though I have lost a friend. I'm glad I have the comfort of knowing that he is in heaven. I rejoice that God gave him to us for a short time. I rejoice that he has met his best friend.

Laura

I am currently a freshman at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, MI. I heard of Rich's passing on Monday night. He has had a huge impact on my life and I will never forget him. My religion teacher played his music, especially "Hold Me Jesus" a lot, and I found his music just seemed to speak to me. His album was the first Christian cd I ever bought. That song has gotten me through

hard times. Whenever I feel low I just listen to that song. Rich made a huge impact on this world and I just wanted to let you know that everyone here at Concordia is devastated by his passing but is uplifted knowing he is with our Maker in Heaven. We will never forget him. His music touched a lot of people and changed many lives, including mine, and now, as he is in heaven, he is getting his reward for his years of hard work. I hope you all draw strength knowing he is in a better place and know that the world will never forget him. We will continue to keep you all in our prayers. God's blessings on you all.

Sincerely,
Jamie L. Peterson

Rich's music and life have impacted my life and relationship with God in ways that I could never begin to describe. His music was there when I needed to learn to stand with Christ and comforted me when I realized the extreme need to rest in Christ's grace. We have truly lost a wonderful brother and inspiration. Our love and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Wagner

After my initial shock and disbelief, I had been brooding over his death, breaking down into tears at work, at home, at any time of day or night -- until tonight. After my evening bike ride, I noticed an especially spectacular sunset. His words resounded through my mind: "There's so much work left to do, but so much you've already done." For the first time since his death, I see. He's with his First Love -- what greater joy is there than that? Lord Jesus, we recognize Your sovereignty and pray that our lives may bring You glory!

Devorah

Rich's music has always been a blessing for me. He obviously lived out the plan God had for him. His music will live after him, and he will always be remembered.

Vic Eastham

I would like to let you know that Rich has made a forever impact on my life. My view of my heavenly Father and the way that I lead worship in ministry was forever changed the first time I heard "Awesome God". The only words I can share are "Thank You" and that the Lord used Rich in such an incredible way in my life. He knew His Heavenly Father, he knew Him in worship, and now he knows Him face to face. God Bless you and please know that he will continue to minister through music and the legacy of his life.

You're in our prayers,
Scott Hobbs

Rich Mullins... what a loss for us all. Talented, compassionate, and complex, his music had a way of taking "religion" out, and putting God in. At times in my Christian walk when I was tired of being a "Christian," tired of the "talking the talk," tired of trying to be something I wasn't, and didn't even want to be at times - there was something about his music that made me remember what it is all about - the love of God, the beauty of His creation, the richness of His history, and probably above all His astounding grace. I related to Rich Mullins as I would a friend, which I find so odd considering I didn't know him. I am grateful to him for getting me through a tough time in my life with his song "If I Stand," because of course, I couldn't stand, but was reminded it's okay when you can't.

I know, I know, heaven's gain. But our deep, deep loss.

Rich, I am so happy for you that you are home.

Clare

Rich can now "see Him, and hear Him tell him that He loves Him so much." For those of us who grieve our loss of this great, Christ-like man, it is also our "hope to carry on"--that we too will be someday will "held by Jesus." Rich certainly did leave a legacy of joy; a legacy of real compassion. We don't understand why God ended his life on earth at such an early age, but our faith can grow stronger through this--in admitting we don't understand Him and that we need Him to help us through. In doing so, we will enhance our relationship with our Lord, causing us to leave our own legacy of Christ-like service; which is the way Rich would have wanted it. And I thank God, that He gave us Rich to remind us of just that; in his songs, his articles, his speaking, his life.

Brian Snyder

To the family of Rich Mullins,

My family sends you our prayers and sympathy. We pray that you will lean on God for strength today and in the days to come. Be comforted in knowing that Rich touched the lives of literally every one who heard his music. His seem to have a sense for heaven that most of us only hope to have. Our local Christian station in Dallas paid tribute to Rich all day Monday. Just listening to words of his songs, you realize that he was constantly in tune with our Creator and unconcern with the things of the world. My two teen-aged daughters looked to him as a role model. For that influence I will always be thankful. Thank you for sharing him with believers everywhere. I know that the heavenly choir has a new look. I'm sure Rich is joyfully "Singing His Praises to the Lord"!

Lord Bless You,
Lynn, Kathy, Kara & Laura Thomas

As the owner of a Christian bookstore and a sales rep. in the CBA, Rich was a real shining light in a music industry that has really lost it's focus on what God has called it to do. One can't help but think of Keith Green at a time like this, and how Rich and Keith were power vessels for Jesus Christ. I know the Lord will in His special way bless you through this tragedy.

John Terry

My wife and I are dairy farmers in Indiana. At times raising four young children and running a farm have been hard. I remember the first Rich Mullins song that I heard, it was First Family. The experiences that Rich wrote about were the ones we were living. When I went back to college to earn an elementary education degree things were not any easier but whenever I was feeling discouraged I would put one of Rich's tapes in our old beater of a car and sing along to sooth my soul and soften my heart. I found Rich's music to speak to people that had not the love of the Lord or the need of the Lord in their lives.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing. II Timothy 4 7, 8

Tom Waitt

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Rich got his promotion Friday night, another reminder that we are not

promised tomorrow. Our prayers are with his family and we are praying earnestly for Mitch and his family. Rich will be greatly missed but I really and truly believe that soon and very soon we will all join him. God should have a big enough choir of the ones he has called home recently that all he needs to say is "Gabriel, sound your trumpet"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brenda Kelly

I just wanted to say to the family of Rich Mullins that he was a great man who right now is singing in heaven. I remember two instances when I had met him. One time he came to perform at a church here in Evansville, IN where I am now attending. The name of the church then was "Cullen Ave", but they have recently changed it to "Crossroads". After he finished performing we saw him sitting in the hallway of the church on a vent talking to people. My two friends who are real bold decided to go up and talk to him. I on the other hand was real shy about it, but I went with them feeling that they could do most of the talking and I will just stand and listen. I had never before felt so at ease talking to someone as I did Rich Mullins. I couldn't believe someone could be that down to earth and be so close to Heaven at the same time. I talked to him about a lot of things that I normally would not have said, but I just felt so comfortable.

Another time I had met him was at a Christian Retreat called CIY. I decide since I sing a lot myself that I wanted to perform in the choir that they had set up for anyone who wanted to sing and we would perform on the last night of CIY. Well, like anything you need to practice before you can perform anything so I went to the room that the practice was being held at. I had know idea when I entered the room that Rich Mullins was going to direct the choir. It boggled the mind to know that a guy who makes albums and has so many followers would ever direct a small time choir. It just showed his compassion. That it was real. In his words and in his life he lived for Jesus. I guess now we can literally say that when he left he went out like Elijah. I am praying for you all.

I know it is very difficult at times, but if there was ever a guy in this world I felt should leave us early to be with Jesus, it was him. I know what he is saying right now. "Well done, my good and faithful servant".

Thank you God for giving us the great opportunity to know this wonderful man that you brought to this earth to serve you and he took full advantage of your grace. Please tell him that I love him and he will be missed. Amen.

Kevin

We are from Lincoln Christian College, where Rich wrote one of his songs, it saddens me to see the concert pictures being taken down all over campus; he had a concert here in October. We want to send our sympathy to Rich's family and let Mitch and his family know we are praying for him/them. Let's thank God that he gave Rich the incredible gift of ministering to others in such a powerful way. Rich was truly a man of God and one that will always be remembered!

Stephen Osbourne

It was such a tragic shock to hear about the loss of a great Christian singer. Truly, his voice and message and ministry will never be forgotten. Only He knows the reason for this loss. His music will live on through us all! God bless and our prayers are with you all.

Phil Snyder

It is such a shock to hear of Rich's death. However, we can find comfort in the fact that Rich is in a better place and with the Lord that he loved to serve and witness about.

Dave

My real introduction to the depth of Rich's music and understanding was the song "Calling Out Your Name." The first time I heard the song on the radio I was swept away. After BROAD hints, I received "The World as Best I Remember It, Vol. 1 for my birthday. It has been one of my favorites ever since. "Step By Step" became sort of a theme song for our Sunday School class...especially "I will follow you all of my days." Our family was blessed to see Rich, Mitch and the band in Lubbock last June...we found out about the concert on the day of, dropped everything and made the two hour drive to Trinity Church. We were awed by over 3 hours of music (Okay, "Mimes of the Old West" by This Train was not as awesome, but overall it was wonderful. My 10 year old and 7 year old still sing "Screen Door" with great gusto. Through his music, it was easy to feel a kinship with Rich, even though we never met him personally. He spoke with humor, warmth, REALness and with great worship of God and His ways, as well as the foibles and frustrations of being human. We have this hope, however...we will meet him for real one day...maybe very soon.

Paul Wiseman

I'm so sorry for your pain. I realize that you are receiving thousands of these, and at some level, it must be both wonderful and hard to know that Rich has so many people who seemed to know him through his music. The only thing that makes any sense to me is that he had to go help write the new song (from Revelation) that all believers will sing as we cast our crowns before the throne of our father. Rich will be well remembered, and please know that as you, his family and close friends, endure the loss, that there are thousands of us praying for you.

russ tidwell

It is ironic but true that Rich's last single release, "Elijah", was about going home to heaven. Also, the last words Rich utters in that song is "bye bye". He always had a way of saying simple things and leaving such a deep mark, even when he didn't mean to. I will miss you, Rich. I can't wait to see you again. "Heaven is a long hello". :)

Pat and Evie Norberg

Rich Mullins was unique among Christian performers. His music was so personal, so revealing, that when others told me that he was their favorite Christian performer, I was quick to reply that I had all of his releases, saw him in concert, was from Indiana like him, and that he was the first Christian performer I ever listened to and purchased and that he was by far my favorite. In other words, I liked him better! There was something about Rich, and in the music that he left behind, that pulled you towards him - caused you to study his lyrics and quiet everyone around you when one of his songs came on the radio. That "something" was Jesus Christ. Rich, like Keith Green before him, was dedicated solely to His Lord, and his life and music was a visual of that commitment. Like Elijah he was taken, I believe, because of how serious he was about seeking the Lord's face. The same for Keith Green in his generation. May we too, like each of them, seek God with the same resolve and commitment. Thank you Rich . .

Douglas Bowman

Rich Mullins was my favorite Christian artist. Now he's singing his songs for the one he used to sing about.

NMH

My name is Thomas Wright. I first witnessed Rich in 1994 in a concert that God used to lead my wife, Debi, and I, to sponsor a little girl in Ecuador with Compassion Intl. In 1995 when Rich came back to Tulsa, the Lord blessed me financially so that about 25 friends and church family were able to join in the praise and worship that was Rich in concert. Two of my friends and I, being led by a desire to share the Lord with others with music and testimony as Rich did, began a band we call "Forgiven, not Perfect". We most recently saw Rich this spring as he visited Tulsa, not with the Ragamuffin Band, but with a new friend, Mitch. The two of them shared and led us in praise and worship at a local church of Christ. Rich spent a great deal of time speaking from the heart, he accompanied Mitch on several songs, as humble and pleased with the warm welcome and encouragement his friend received as he was leading us in hymns and praises and listening to us sing to our Lord.

Your son allowed the Lord to use him to speak to us in so many ways, I hope that the " Well done, my good and faithful servant" that I am sure was reserved for Rich. in a small way, helps you thru this time of longing for your son. Please take heart in Jn 14 vv.1-3 and 1 Cor. 5 vv.1-8, that immediately Rich was in the presence of the One that he served and loved so much.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.
Thomas and Debi and Rachel Wright,
Mike and Shea Casey,
Larry Carden,
Greg Shaw

Hi,
God bless you. I have so many regrets that I did not ever get to see Rich, or even write him, but one day I know I will. I will miss him.

He wrote these words and they helped me through a life-threatening

trial. I hope they will help you now:

"May Peace rain down from heaven,
like little pieces of the sky,
like the little keepers of the promise
falling on these souls the drought has dried.

In His blood and in His body,
in this bread and in this wine...
Peace to you,
Peace of Christ to you."

God bless you. I love you. I love Rich. We will see him.

In Christ
Martin McCourt

Our God is an Awesome God and now Rich has gotten to meet Him.
That is an exciting factor in the face of sorrow. Praise God for
what Rich's music has done to change the way I worship God. His
ministry was and will always be truly a blessing.

Kelly Brock

What does one say when her hero passes away? There are so many
people who regard Rich as their favorite artist, one who touched
their lives. That is undoubtedly the reason he was sent here...
But to me he was so much more. As I sit here on the campus on
Cincinnati Bible College, I am thinking of the many gestures taken
here to honor his life here on earth; and I remain amazed at the
influence he has had on my life. I never got a chance to shake
his hand... or tell him what he meant to me. He was my one and
only role model - my example, my hero, my inspiration.

He has encouraged me to write my songs from the heart, regardless
of the reaction I expect to get from those who hear them. He

taught me that only I could discover the kind of music God wanted me to create - and I had to find it inside myself - not in some other artist on some big label somewhere. I have many times thought of Rich as the one standing over my shoulder, teaching and instructing me. So when I first heard of his death, I felt as if a piece of my heart had been wrenched out. It's amazing how God guides and teaches you through apparent strangers...

I just finished writing a song in his memory... perhaps someday someone out there will hear it and not praise me, but the Father in Heaven who graciously allowed us to see this man of faith, this "Jesus man" - our example and our brother.

We will miss him, but shall we mourn him? Shall Christians accept death with dark veils and grim tears? No, but with the tears one sheds when he says goodbye - bittersweet tears that fall with faith that he will see his loved one again.

I will close with a potent quote by Emily Dickinson - another of my inspirations:

"The Martyr Poets did not tell -
But wrought their Pang in syllable -
That when their mortal name be numb
Their mortal fate - encourage Some - ..."

Tasha Thomas

It saddened me greatly to hear of Rich's death. But in listening to some of his music, it made me smile to know he is with His Awesome God singing in the heavenly choir.

My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

In Jesus's Love,
Jerrie Franklin

Austin, TX

Mrs Mullins,

Your son touched our lives in a way few people ever do. The Lord used Rich's life in ways that will only be known when we are gathered there with the Lord, The Creator, The Almighty One, the One who gave Rich his gift! I pray that the peace of God will be with you in the days to come.

Paul Day

This news is so sad for us. We have been truly blessed by Rich's powerful lyrics and music in his songs to the Lord; Awesome God, The Creed, Maker of Noses, and If I Stand are only a few of the pieces that cut to our hearts and emphasized God's power and our response to His awesome gift to us. We cried at the thought of the loss of such a compassionate and gifted spokesman for the Lord, but we also rejoiced at his homecoming to our Awesome God. We are also thankful for his voice in the wilderness, and ponder our place in God's plan at this time. May God use this tragedy to touch lives and inspire others to answer the call in such a bold way.

-Dean C. Trejo

I was in shock to hear of Rich's death. I got the opportunity to meet him in 1987 or '88 and to spend a week getting to know this wonderful man. It was at Round Lake Christian Assembly near Loudenville, OH. He had a heart full of love and was willing to share it with everyone he came into contact with. He will truly be missed by many.

In Christian Love,

Sharon

Rich served as music minister for our church in Michigan in 1982-1983. He was then, and remained until the end, a true Christian light and the most honest, sincere, and humble musician I've ever met. I don't think he had any idea how large an impact he had on the kids at our church (many of whom now have kids of their own). He shared his heart with anyone he met, simply and easily, because he had found such joy in Christ that he wanted everyone to know. I've never met anyone who lived so completely for God. One of his earliest songs perfectly described his life:

"Live like you'll die tomorrow,
die knowing you'll live forever..."

Although my heart is heavy and there's been a lump in my throat since I heard the news, I can't help but to think that Rich finally got what he wanted, and I'm sure it didn't break his heart to say goodbye.

-Kim Edwards
Grand Rapids, Michigan

When I first heard about the sudden and tragic accident of Rich Mullins last night, my first reaction was shock and disbelief. I couldn't believe the news. I love his music - especially "Awesome God". And as I'm writing this note, I'm listening to it as a remembrance of such an "Awesome Man" with such a God-given talent. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Regards,
Anabelle Lieuson,
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

We just wanted to let you know how much Rich Mullins's music has meant in both of our lives. When I was 13, Awesome God was my lifesaver in dealing with my grief at the loss of my father. He was truly a blessing. We know that God will shower His grace upon you all as you deal with this tragedy. You are all in our prayers, as is Mitch for his recovery through God's boundless grace.

May God watch over and bless you all,
Joey and Nicole MacNamara

My name is Willy Skaff and I was a senior at Wheaton College last year when Rich and Mitch brought their musical, "Canticle of the Plains" to our campus. I auditioned and got the part of Frank, the wanderer who follows the voice of God, modeled after St. Francis of Assisi. To be honest, the play was beset with problems and the cause of some heartache for all those involved--canceled rehearsals, a transformed script, technical problems, and unfilled roles. This in no way reflected on Rich, however, as he only able to be with us the week prior to performance. Rather it was caused by the fact that we had no priority over use of the campus stages, we had a tiny budget, and shaky leadership. But we pulled it off and put it on, and it was worth every second sharing a stage with Rich, as he opened and closed the musical with his own singing. As I've told others, it was the music that drove the story line and told the tale of Frank. It was the music that painted the scenery better than any set could have, and it was the music that ultimately moved the people. Rich's melodies and instrumentation are magic, and his lyrics are more than eloquent. He was a true poet. I have sung a couple of those songs at church and received reactions and compliments different from ever before. There is something distinct and refreshing, new and uplifting, with his music, and my complimenters usually were at a loss of words for what exactly it was, or how exactly they felt. I am forever grateful that Rich brought his music to our school, that he selflessly turned over his work for us strangers to interpret. I am proud to have been a part of his ministry, and glad to have been his friend for a short while.

Rich is now with his Lord, smiling into His face. The snapshot in my kitchen of he and I at the reception following the show is now priceless. Thank you Rich Mullins. My prayers are for your family and friends in this time of questioning, sorrow, and joy.

Sincerely,
Willy Skaff

I have to share something with you. I saw Rich at the concert in McKinney in June and he just blessed me so much. My five year old daughter knew most of the words to his songs and sang right along with him. It makes me, as a mother, very grateful for the influence that Rich Mullins' music has had on my family. I mourn his death selfishly because I know that Rich is probably singing with the angels right now. Can't you hear a choir of angels singing Our God is an Awesome God??????

Dana Oscar

If I was God I would have done things different. If I was God, good self-sacrificing Christian mentors would not die but live as His blessing to us, and fellow soldiers in the battle for righteousness and souls. If I was God, blessings would rain down in a flood at the feet of those called according to his purpose. If I was God, the apostles would not have been held in jail, on crosses, or to burning stakes, but held as heroes of truth. If I was God, the Savior of the world wouldn't have been homeless with a stone for his pillow. If I were God, He wouldn't have been born in a barn and laid in a feed trough.

But I am not God. I am incapable of doing even the smallest of his works. I cannot even control my own life without the leadership of His Holy Spirit. My finite mind is clothed in sinful desires, bias and self-interest. If He is God, then He has

a perfect plan in which there is a reason for such things, the things now we don't understand. I guess that's what faith is for.

Tomorrow we will rise, but today my eyes are as full of tears as my heart is of grief. Our Example grieved at the death of a friend. After all, a part has been unexpectedly torn from our body. Not torn, but pruned, by the Gardener who fashions us to that which we cannot now even imagine. He is the vine, we are the branches.

Wayne Edgar

Rich Mullins music touched my heart, he inspired me to be real in my relationship with God and others. I can't wait to thank him for letting God use him. I want to do the same with my life.

-- Ron Mouser

This past summer there was a young man in our church who had just graduated from college. He was into full time ministry, had a Christian band, had already pastored a church by the time he was 22 years old. He was alive for the Lord. He did more in his 22 years than most do all their life for Jesus. He was killed in an accident on his way to a Youth camp to be a counselor. The church was filled to overflowing with friends and people who his life had touched. I found myself asking why take such a good young man who did so much for God. Just like many are asking "Why Rich?" He did so much for God. But this young man's mother wrote to the church after Brian's funeral that God's comfort was so precious to her because He understood, you see; because God too had a son in the ministry and his life was lost at a young age as well. I pray God's blessing and comfort for you.

And to Rich's mom: You raised a fine son, you should be proud.

--Robin Lafflin

My prayers go out to Rich's family. Rich Mullins was one-of-a-kind. He was an "uncompromising" Christian musician, uniquely delivering the Gospel message in every song. Without a doubt he was among the greatest musical talents who ever walked the earth. His music will "live on" for years to come and continue to bring many to Christ. Goodbye for now Rich...we "will" see you again someday!

--James Condon Sr

I will truly miss Rich. Every time I listen to one of his songs, my heart will break a little because I know he isn't here. But this is where the wonderful thing about Christianity comes into play: while I miss him now, I know that we will all be reunited in Heaven. We will all just have to be patient. Until then, Rich and Mark Heard can sing to God until we get there to join them in song. Until that time when we are reunited, let us continue to carry on the job that Rich worked so hard at: bringing Christ to a sick and dying world.

--Darin Siefert

My name is David Holmes, I am 16 years old. Today my mother, sister, and I were on our way to Wal-Mart casually listening to the Christian radio station, when we heard the D.J. say, "we will have a memorial for Rich mullins tomorrow at 4:30 and share the memories & music of the man we all loved." My mom screamed, WHAT! Surely he isn't dead! Surely we would have heard something! We went straight to our local Christian bookstore, and asked them what was going on; that's when our fears were confirmed, and we were devastated. But he is now singing praises to his King face to face, so we should not be depressed, for he himself said "and it won't break my heart to say goodbye..." We love you, Rich.

--the Holmes'

I was attending a conference in Dallas this past weekend when a friend of mine shared with me the news about Rich. I couldn't even react because I was so stunned. His music has been a part of my life for many years and I am torn between elation and grief . But after searching my heart I have no doubt what emotion Rich would have me feel. My husband and I operate a home for the mentally challenged about 60 miles northwest of Ft. Worth, TX. The majority of them can sing "Awesome God" perfectly. I think Rich would find joy in that. My sympathy to Rich's loved ones and continued prayers for Mitch.

--Jim Metcalf

To the Mullins Clan:

The colour of green was never so wonderful in my life as when Rich did his tribute to the Irish. Hey, I am biased, I think God is Irish. I loved Rich's music so much and it truly enriched my walk with the Lord. There is not a day that goes by where at least two or three of his songs come out of my stereo speakers or on my car radio. When I heard of his passing, I was mindful of two things: the world's great loss and the Lord's great gain. I am truly looking forward to that far-off day where I will hear his music in heaven.

God Bless You and Keep You,
Brooks Kelley

I would like to express my gratitude to God for the ministry that he accomplished in my life through the life of Rich Mullins. He inspired me with Awesome God as a 19-year-old teenager, and

encourages me with his music as a 26-year-old seminary student. Although his music will continue to inspire me to follow God closer, knowing that we have lost a man who was sold out to his Creator saddens my heart. Please let his family know that I will pray for them as often as I hear the words of his songs echo in my heart.

Praise be to God for the life of Rich -- may we all leave such a legacy. The Winds of Heaven blow upon the Stuff of Earth a little harder now that Rich has added his breath to the numbers. I long for the day when I can stand next to him and Sing my Praise to the Lord. Truly he has gone out like Elijah...

Kara

I know that lives were shattered when Rich went home. It amazes me that my grief has been so strong. I only knew him through his music. I did have an opportunity to witness his character during a performance in Longview, Texas, when the tornado siren forced an evacuation of the building, and - in true Christian fashion - the band showed up with acoustic instruments to attempt to finish the show. After the all-clear siren, the band played until almost midnight!!!! I'll also NEVER forget the worship time during the concert: God you are my God....and I will ever praise you !!!! The only way that I could commemorate Rich was in song, although not nearly as good as Rich would have done, but I hope that it will be adequate. The following are the words and you can be the judge.

MAN of GOD

A man of God died Today
In a way so senselessly
I had to stop and ask my Lord
I had to ask Him why?
This man of God gave his life
to do your will upon the earth
It seemed so unfair

to take him away

--CHORUS--

I know your ways are Just oh God
I know your ways are true
I know you know what's going on
Who am I to tell you?
I know he's now in Paradise
Singing Awesome God to you
I just know that I am going to miss him here
Until I see him there with you.....

Oh Lord your Word says a Righteous man
Is taken to save him pain
What about those left here?
Will life ever be the same?
His words were filled with Power
His words spoke the truth
The simplicity of his message
brought many to you

--CHORUS--

I know he's there beside you
With a smile upon his face
He stayed true, he stayed the course
yes, he finished the race.
There will be many more in Heaven
Because he walked upon the earth
He taught them the love of Christ
and he taught them of their worth.
And now I come to Praise you
and he would do the same
I can't wait to get to heaven
and hear him sing again...

--Chorus and fade--

I wish that I could have known Rich in life. All I can tell you
is that his music has tremendously affected my life, and his death

has broken my heart. I am praying for Mitch, the affected families, but more importantly the band as a whole. The band, his music, his legacy, are with them. I pray that they will continue what he started. Yes, without Rich it will be different....but the talent that I saw on the stage in Longview, Texas, on a rainy night has the God-given talent to affect change in the body of Christ. Keep on keeping on.

Your brother in Christ,
Jay Anderson

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Wednesday, September 24, 1997
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Seeing how many people have been touched by Rich and his music is incredible. Praise be to God! But it's still tough for those left behind, and I pray that Rich's family and friends would find peace knowing how many lives Rich has touched. The Holy Spirit truly spoke through his songs, and they have given me the greatest strength in times of need. I thank Rich for being sensitive to the Spirit in his songwriting. I only had the pleasure of meeting Rich once. Back in 1993, I drove five hours to Knoxville, TN, along with 10 other friends, to see Rich in concert. One of those friends had been telling us that there were three men whom he really admired more than anyone else in the world: Jesus Christ, Larry Bird, and Rich Mullins. He was sure he'd see Jesus, and he figured he didn't have a shot at meeting Larry, but he wanted to take a chance to meet Rich. After the concert we wandered up on stage where we did meet Rich. Not only that, but after the auditorium had cleared, Rich sat down at the piano and played a duet with my friend as the rest of us gathered around and sang "Sometimes by Step" and "Lion of Judah." I cherish that memory, and I thank Rich for using his talents to the glory of God.

John Ballard

AFR played "If I Stand" yesterday morning while I was driving to work. I had not heard the news before that time and had been singing along with Rich as I travelled. Selfishly, I felt unspeakable grief and cried periodically through the day. This man I never met presented the reality of Christ in a way no one else could. Upon returning home, I gathered my CD's and began playing them and weeping. Weeping turned to quiet singing then full-out exaltation of God.

I am truly sorry we will not have new music from Rich, but the thought came to me that he, who would "weep as a man who is longing for his home," is no longer longing. Thank you, Lord for giving us the sweet and precious gift that Rich was.

Leslie Ireland

It is with a heavy heart and prayers that I wish you all the peace of the Holy Spirit can bring in such a time of loss. Out of the thousands of letters you will receive I am sure mine will be lost in the volumes but I felt strongly that I had to share with you, all his family, the impact that Rich had on my Christian life.

In 1991, I moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to attend Bible College. Within a few weeks a friend told me that Rich was going to hold a concert at a church in Owasso, just north of Tulsa. It was and will always be the concert that touched me the most. It was not a concert but an offering to God of the most sincere and humble worship like no other service I had ever attended in my life. Nothing to this day has equaled what his songs of praise and worship to God in my life. I saw Jesus in an entirely new light. I was awestruck with Rich's childlike approach to the Father, so unpretentious and so real and down to earth. It touched my soul deeply. As I read the articles on the internet about Rich and how he wanted people not to remember him but rather the God he served well he did just that. I cried when I heard the news and the loss I felt was like someone I knew even though we never met.

We have lost a humble man who was great in the things of God. But heaven is a whole lot richer; right now Jesus and Rich are playing in the River of Life. A son has come home. His music, like no other that I have ever listened to, has soothed my soul and spirit like his. I am going to miss him.

To Mom Mullins, thanks for bringing such a wonderful gift into the world; my prayers are with you and your family.

Sincerely,
Tony F.Ruiz
Catoosa, OK

Rich was a rare gem. Thank you for sharing him with us. Though I never met him, he touched my life. My family and I loved him and will miss him greatly. I wanted to share with you something that Rich said at a concert in 1995. Perhaps you've already heard him say it. I don't exactly remember the context of these remarks, just that he made them before singing, "If I Stand." Anyway, he said something along these lines: "When somebody dies young, or 'before their time', we often think, How unfair of God that he should die. What we ought to be thinking instead is, How unfair of God that he should have lived at all. How unfair of God that any of us should live. God doesn't have to give any of us life. All of life is a gift from Him..." And he went on in his Rich way, not knowing that he spoke of himself. I share this thought, Rich's thought, in the hope that it will be helpful to you. It adds a different perspective to his life & death. Every day that he lived was God's gift to you, and the years that he ministered in music & words were God's gift to the rest of us. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace..." (Rom.5:13), and may Jesus hold you and give you the hope to carry on.

B Winkel
Michigan

To Rich's mom and family, may you be comforted by the love and prayers that go out for you. Though we cannot know the extent, we share your pain and our hearts go out to you. God is Sovereign. Rich was a Christlike man, this certainly is true Of that dear child of God, so many heard and knew. So gentle, kind, and brave, and so much like his Lord So dedicated to the task, of passing on God's word.... Now, we must say farewell, and for the time being part .But the memory of our dear brother, will live on in our heart.

--Dawn Mackay

What a shame. His music was the only Christian music I can truly say I liked. Maybe it was because Rich wasn't phony. When he sang, it came from the heart. I hope that comforts his family, how he touched so many people with his life and music. I truly hope his friend that was hurt recovers, my prayers are with him. Thanks God for letting us have Rich.

--David Steele

I found Rich's music to be inspiring and wonderful. Awesome God is such a very wonderful praise to God. I have found it to be a great worshipping tool. His death is a great loss to those of us who remain on earth. It is a great joy, however to know that Rich is in Heaven with the Father, who has taken away all of his worldly pain. Rich is now singing praises with the other greats who have gone on to be with the Father.

--Trixie

My wife and I were shocked to hear of the passing of Rich.

Several years ago we lost our youngest daughter in an accident. Rich's words through his music were a great comfort to us then as they are now. We only met him once but it was enough to show us that what he sang about was also the way he lived his life. My sympathy and prayers go out to his family. The grief process is a tough load to handle, but with God's help and a lot of prayers He will see you through it. Rich now sings in heaven but one day there will be a glorious reunion!

2 Samuel 12:23

--Lisa Herschelman

When I heard of Rich's death I was stunned and filled with sadness and happiness at the same time. He is singing Awesome God to the Awesome God and to me that is such a touching thought. But I can't deny my sorrow for losing such a special friend. Yes , even though I never met him personally he was a dear friend. I think this is because his songs were written in such away that they became personal to me. Many of my friends feel the same way. Thank you Rich Mullins for following God in such away that allowed you to create a wonderful ministry in Christ. You touched and will continue to touch many people. You must be so happy to be home with our Lord. You will be missed. I will continue to pray to Rich's family and for the recovery of Mitch and his family.

--Jeff Martinson

My deepest sympathies to the family of Rich Mullins. He was truly a great Christian man and an inspiration to us all. He was such a great song writer and singer and was anointed by God. Times like this we must remember where he is now in comparison to what he left. He's with God now and without a doubt having the best time he's ever had. I know it's almost impossible to be happy at this time, and we have all these great theologies about how we should celebrate when a brother or sister in Christ goes to be with him;

but the truth is right now it seems so hard to celebrate, and all we can do is rest in the comforting arms of Jesus and trust in the One who died so that we might live. We'll get the chance to fellowship with our brother Rich again. It is important to keep that in mind especially now. Once again, you are in my prayers, and my condolences on the loss of your loved one.

In the love and Service of our Lord Jesus Christ,
-Cole Barnes
Decatur, AL

To me Rich left this world like he did in his concerts. He left us singing praise to God as he quietly left, and when you finally realize that he was gone you wanted to hear more but knew deep down inside that this was right. He has shown us what true worship is. He left his concerts with the focus on God and once again he has left us with a focus on the wonder of heaven, of God, worship, and a challenge to live our lives prepared to be called home.

Eric Telfer

Rich has helped me so much in my Christian walk through his music. Even now in his death he is helping me understand heaven a little bit better. Thanks for the songs Rich I'll see you on the other side. Thank you Jesus for Rich and all the memories of him. Lord please comfort the families of Rich and Mitch during this time of loss. Lord also watch over Mitch and allow him to recover fully.

Betty

To the Mullins Family,

May God's peace comfort you and give you strength. Rich was truly

a disciple that with God's guidance through his music made a difference in the lives of many of us.

Cory King

I can't imagine your grief. We are asking God to grant peace to your hearts. We are mourning with you. it's almost eerie to hear the word of his songs, because he's right where he always sung about being. Praise God for such a blessing in your son and you r brother.

Julie Eshelman
Los Angeles, CA

To his family, thank you for giving Rich to the world. May God bless in this moment. May he live on in our memories as he inspires us to walk in Jesus' steps, step by step.

Mrs Mullins, your son touched our lives in a way few people ever do. The Lord used Rich's life in ways that will only be known when we are gathered there with the Lord, The Creator, The Almighty One, the One who gave Rich his gift! I pray that the peace of God will be with you in the days to come.

TR Day

Dear God,
Thank you for letting us borrow Rich a while.
-Kevin C.Neece<><

We have been deeply touched by Rich's life, and we grieve with you in his death. God continually surprises us with His generosity: He gave Rich the very heart, soul, and songs that Rich offered back to his Father, and to us, his fellow sojourners. It sort of seems like our dad giving us money so we can buy him a Christmas present. And the thing is, He delights in what we give him.

Rich has long been our friend and older brother, a kindred spirit whom we never met, but love with all our heart. It seems like he poured himself out, poured out the Spirit who filled him. Or maybe he was running the race with such reckless abandon that he spilled out, and his passion for his One True Love has seeped into our lives. We have been able to drink deeply of God's grace through Rich's songs. Rich understood that life wasn't tidy and orderly, fitting neatly into a day-timer. His songs reflect his bare honesty in grappling with the God who wrestled him to the ground so many times. We were not an audience for Rich -- we were in the ring with him. We came away broken and blessed. God is like that.

On July 2, 1995 we traveled six hours to see Rich in Manchester, Connecticut, with Brennan Manning. It was our first concert, only it wasn't a concert. It was like he just had a bunch of people over to sing and laugh and cry and worship. He and Beaker had just come back from a hike and barely made it on stage in time. The first thing he said was that he hadn't got a chance to shower. That set the tone for the night. We forgot about stages and concerts and just hung out with Rich to listen to God. There wasn't a single song he sang alone. At the end, it didn't end. Rich said he was just going to hang out and play some songs. He said we could stay if we wanted to. No one left. We all know that Rich's life didn't end on September 19. He was running the race, tripping and spilling, waving us on to join him, when his body got pulled out from underneath him and Jesus set him free.

We miss him terribly, we will always. It seems like Rich would tell us not to be silly, that we're all one person, we are the Bride Christ chose for Himself, His very own Beloved. Or maybe he would say, "Rich who?" He has a new name. We pray for Rich's family and friends, sometimes with only the groans of little

children who really don't understand. We count it a privilege to weep with them. We also lift up Mitch and his family, the truck driver, and many, many ragamuffins. God has comforted us through you. He is our Father. He is good.

DJ Ross

We send our heartfelt condolences and would like to add our names to the ones who will miss the inspiring ministry of Rich. Thankfully our 'goodbye's are heaven's 'hello's. We thank God for letting such a one grace this world for as long as he did.

In Christ's love,
Dennis and Ann Wise and family

I want to address this message to Rich's parents. Your son made the finest music because he lived the finest life. He lived in such a way as to bless and strengthen any life that even remotely touched his. He was and is an honor to Christ and I will always be grateful for the messages in his songs which helped bring a cultural Christian to the cross. God Bless you for the way you raised your son.

Signed a grateful fellow sojourner.
Jared

To Rich's Family:

I know you don't know me.. I'm one of the many who was touched by Rich's music, especially as of late. I know you must be grieving greatly for your loss. I sympathize with you. I only hope that you are touched by how much God used Rich to touch us all out here in this place we call the world. I don't know much about his life

- how good he was, how many mistakes he made along the way. All I know is this: I'm a little closer to God today because of the messages in some of Rich's songs, and to God, and Rich. I am grateful. Thank you for your time.

--John Chalice

Your son, Rich, was such a blessing; a real man of God. God didn't cause this accident, but He will use it to His good. You did exactly what the Lord wanted, raised your child in His ways. Our prayers are with you.

God bless,
Karl, Jane, & Karl Jr. Pabst and Michael Mahoney
Oilton, OK

God's gift to man kind has returned to his home. To be with the Father. May the love of God surround all those who loved Rich and his music. May they see the joy through the tears.

In the love of the Christ, Jesus
--Carole Knapp-Smith

My first memory of Rich was at a concert I was promoting with Harvest Productions in 1986, at Notre Dame University, he was the new opening act for Amy and we were waiting to meet him. I thought he was the bus driver, he tumbled into the back stage area, hair a mess sleep written all over him rubbing his head, I said 'Hi I'm the Christian promoter on this tour, could you please get Rich off the bus for us':) He just did that laugh that he did so well and told me he was Rich. We became friends as only Rich can be friends with someone, that intense time for a period in both our lives and then the friendship that is never ending over the years from afar. I will miss knowing he's out there but am joyful

in knowing that he's probably teaching God the dulcimer and my mother the banjo she always wanted to play ! I'm sure Heaven is jammin', our profound loss is certainly Heavens gain. For all the unsung songs my friend...I will miss you and see you again some day

Kathy Cote,
Wheaton, Illinois

Thank you Lord for Rich's life and talents. We pray that knowing his destiny will bring comfort to his family and friends. Our loss is definitely heaven's gain. Lord, please heal Mitch completely in body, mind and spirit. Please bring peace to the driver of the truck. In Jesus's precious name, Amen.

Regards,
Michael A. Schmitz

My prayers are with you! My husband, Orlando Luckey, is a contemporary Christian recording artist. He used to hang out with Rich, Geoff Thurman, the Willoby Wilson Band and others at the Jesus Coffee House in Cincinnati. He treasures those memories.

Maria Agin

There are no words to describe anything I'd like to tell you. I just wish you all the best, a lot of strength and a strong sense of Gods love.

--Marleen Biesheuvel

I was deeply saddened when I heard Rich had died...How tragic for

one so young in eternal years...He truly went out like Elijah...Be of comfort he was on his way to do his Father's business when it happened. I know the loss of your son is no comfort... but he is in a better place... and someone who loves as much as if not more is taking care of him. God's peace to you. Rich, the world as best as you remember it is missing you.

GOD BLESS

Andrew Walker,
KHCA Angel 95.3 FM

Mullins' family, please know we are praying for you and the families of those involved in the accident. God's peace be with you. John 14:27. It has occurred to me that there was a great singer/songwriter in the Bible: David, the shepherd and the King. Can you imagine the beautiful lyrics and music Rich and David are presenting to our awesome God? It must really be incredible! I look forward to someday participating with them in that magnificent face to face worship of our God.

Faithfully Serving Him,
Timothy

I have only known of Rich's music for a short time, and yet it spoke to my soul. God is using him in such a mighty way, during his time here on earth and now while he is with his heavenly Father. I will pray for each family member that has been in his life. Thank you. Jordan is not waiting any more...

-Sharon C

I wanted to express my condolences to Rich's mom and siblings in their loss. I think all of us who knew his music know that God used Rich's music to profoundly impact the world for Christ. One

of the DJs here said, "Heaven is a little richer now, and t he earth is a little poorer, because of the death of that man." I would have to agree. I remember the first Christian concert I ever went to was in the summer of 1993 at the Cincinnati Zoo. It was Rich Mullins. I was a new Christian, and I remember that I went and bought his tape after the concert. It was the only Christian music I really had aside from a compilation tape my friend had given me. I had worn that one out, and so I listened to Rich all the time. It was such an encouragement to my faith to listen to his music. I just wanted to pay tribute to Rich for all the work he has done for the gospel, and tell you that I in part also feel your loss with you. We have all lost a great man. Praise God that we will see him again in heaven.

Until that day,
Emily Covert

I will be praying for the family and well as Mitch as he recovers in the hospital. God be with you all.
--Sabrina Barts

I met Rich 7 years ago at a wedding near Cincinnati. I had never heard of him before, but he came across as a refreshingly humble man. Since that point I began listening to his music. It encouraged, challenged, and moved me to praise God countless times.

When I moved from Michigan to North Carolina I lost my spiritual support network of friends. The words of Rich's songs helped to continue reading, praying, believing and serving. Rich's passing reminds me of Paul's letter to the Philippians when he tells his brothers and sisters, "For me, to live is Christ, but to die is gain." Rich has gained more than we can possible imagine.

I will miss him for the example he lived for many young Christian

artists, for his music, and especially for his simple yet profound wisdom in his lyrics and writings. "The stuff of earth competes for the allegiance I owe only to the Giver of all good things" is a line that has stuck with me from the very first time I heard it. It is a simple statement; one that we all should remember and practice, yet I still struggle with this world and possessions - Rich's words are a constant reminder of my struggle and an encouragement to pursue my allegiance to God.

I know that Rich would want God to get the glory and praise, so I end by saying, Praise the Lord for your wonderful love for all of us and comfort Rich's family with the peace that passes all understanding.

Harvey Whaler

Yesterday, Sept. 23, I was playing some of Rich's music, worshipping with my 2 boys, David who is 7, and Jared who is 2 years old. I looked at David and said, "I just don't understand why God took Rich." David's response was "Well, dad. Maybe God wanted him up there to write music to send back down here for someone else to sing." I said, "David, I never thought of it that way before! That is really neat." The insight God gave a 7 year old brought a little more peace to his father. I hope it will to Rich's family, friends, and other fans also. I'm sure during the great reunion celebration in heaven we'll hear from Rich again. But if what my son told me is true, we haven't heard the last from Rich in this life either.

--Don Gollahon

I know Rich touched so many lives, mine certainly included. The thing I loved most about Rich's music is my brother and I could sing it together and that always brought us closer together. So although we will miss him and the world is at a loss because he will write no more music, at least we know he's happy. And he's

Home.

--Amanda K. Rich

Rich has meant so much to me since I became a born again Christian. His songs always bring me closer to God and rejuvenate in me the Love of Christ. I will miss him greatly but also look forward to seeing him with our Lord. The Heavens are singing.

Greg

What an incredible gift. Rich Mullins' music touched my heart and my life in an incredible way. I am saddened by the fact that there will be no more music from his heart to ours. But, I believe he is with Jesus. Praise God, praise our Awesome God!

--B. Suzy Welch

To Rich's family and friends:

Though I will say it anyway, you already know what a blessing Rich is to us all. Recently, my husband and I rededicated ourselves to the Lord. With the help of Rich we were given the inspiration to keep that dedication! Though our church has been a great support, Rich is with us seven days a week; we just have to pop a CD in, and there he is. What a blessing he is to us!

I am also going through my own grief now. I lost my mother to lung cancer not even a month ago. Though I am sad at times, I have found that the "normal" grieving process is just not there for those of us with faith in the Lord.

I cannot be angry at God-- my mother is now experiencing a joy and love I could never give her here.

I cannot stay sad for very long-- As much as I miss her, I would never deny her the paradise she lives in now.

I cannot be in denial -- though she is not here, she is also not dead! I have accepted the passing of her body. But all that lies in her grave is that vicious tumor. It is dead, not her.

So if there was one thing I could say to you all, please find time in your sadness to rejoice! He Lives, He Lives, with Jesus Christ he lives!

Because he is part of Jesus, as is my mother, I will never refer to either one in the past tense. They are here, with Him and with us. There's just a little more to do, because Heaven IS waiting for us, and so are Rich and my Mom.

Love and prayers,
Robert and Rene' Mullins
Vancleave, MS

My condolences to Rich's family and prayers for the recovery of Mitch. Rich was truly a unique individual whom I had the pleasure of meeting and sharing thoughts at several retreats quite a few years ago. At the retreats, I found myself just wanting to talk with him. He had such great insights and said things that really made you think. His music does the same -- makes you think. The first song that came to mind when I heard of his passing was "Elijah". That song always gave me chills and I just blare it and sing my heart out! My 3-1/2 year old daughter sings "Awesome God" all the time and says that's her favorite tape. The first thing we have to do in the car is "put in the tape." His music will live forever in our hearts!

--TERRIE ROBBINS

To Rich's Family,

I just wanted to let you know that you are all in my prayers. I had the chance to meet Rich and see him in concert several times this past summer, mostly at a few of the CIY's he did. His music and his life were both a great inspiration to me. He showed people what it meant to seek to serve God with your whole heart, and I'm very grateful to have had the chance to meet him. His commitment to and love for Christ will be remembered for a long time, and I know that someday soon we'll all see him in heaven. You are all in my prayers.

In Christ's Love,
Jake Christian

I wish to give you my condolences on the going Home of Rich. His music has been an incredible blessing to me, not only as a Christian, but as a musician who has the opportunity to play and sing some of the music which he wrote. It is happy/sad to know that he is with our Savior, and you without him. But in a very short time, all who believe will be reunited in Christ.

With His love, and prayers...
Bob

Dear, Dear Mullins family,

I am SO relieved to have this way of saying we are so, SO sorry. I am only a far off fan, and yet, I've got to say that Rich's music has always stricken me to the heart, and has given me the "hope to carry on." There couldn't have been a more honest, more poetic song writer than Rich, and from what I understand, he was so down to earth with his concert goers, as well. Thank you for sharing Rich with all of us. I'm sure it was a sacrifice, and that his constant traveling made it hard for you to spend time

with him. But what he had to communicate in music has blessed so many like me in so much abundance.

I didn't know what had happened Friday night. I was at a Women's Retreat, and on Saturday, joyfully sang his song, "One Thing" to the group. It deeply blessed the women--they wanted to get the album it was on. I bubbled over to them about how all his songs have blessed our family, because they obviously come from a heart for God that is full of joy and deep commitment and love for God, His creation, and His compassion for others. His song "Never Picture Perfect" has give our family the resolve to keep serving Jesus, content with what He's given us, and realizing that living out our faith loving each other is what counts the most.

I am praying for you. My husband is, too. We both cried when we heard the news, and cried again when we heard "Elijah." It was like our big brother in the Lord had passed away, because he was always on our tape player or CD encouraging us to "reach out to Jesus and hold on tight." We will be giving to Compassion. We are holding your hands in prayer and in spirit, and if we can get the memorial service on TV, we will be watching.

God bless you--may He give you all the strength you need at this time of need. May your tears flow unhindered, because, as I found with my grandparents' deaths, it's the only way to healing. It has to work its way through you, and it takes time. Jesus has taught me a lot as I've been grieving for my grandparents who have both died this year.

Take care of each other,
Love, Terry, Lynne, Tim, and Josh Calhoun
Slatington, PA

Just a note to say what an impact Rich's music had on all of us. Our God is an awesome God and although we all share in your grief we can praise God for his life and that he's home.

Prayerfully,

Shelley Dodson
Richmond, In.

To Rich's family,

I am so saddened to hear about your loss. I want you to know that Rich Mullins has touched many lives, and that God really used him. His music will live on forever. My guess is, he's up in Heaven right now, working on another song.

God bless you,
Melissa

God changed my life through Rich's music. He's home now, but we will all miss him greatly here. I look forward to hearing his voice again someday in Glory.
--Andi Moore

Friday night, I pulled out my favorite songbook of Rich's and tried to sing some of those favorites. I'm heartbroken that there will be no more of them on earth. But, as I looked at his photo, I thought, just you wait... just wait. He's there getting ready, and I will have all of eternity to have a chance to sing with him to our beautiful Savior. Won't that be a BLAST?!? There wasn't enough time here on earth, but we'll have forever together, and it won't be long now!

--Barb J. Slagel

Dear family,

I am so sorry to hear about this and as I think about it and being

a 13 year old girl i just think that life is too short to be living on the devil's side so since I heard about this accident I am going to start taking life and God seriously and change my life for good!!! I truly am sorry and I will be praying for him and the family!!!

love and concern,
Raychael Barnes

Hearing the news of Rich's accident touched me deeply. My wife and I loved the music he brought to this world and the messages he conveyed through that music. For me it has shaped, in part, who I am and what I stand for. His legacy is real and will be enduring. We were both numb when we heard the news and still find it difficult to accept. My daughter who is now 5 years old has listened to "Awesome God" since she could speak and still sings the song with a love and excitement I cannot describe. We told Rich about this after one of his concerts and he humbly responded "I'm sure she sings it better than me". We can now only rejoice that Rich is with our "Awesome God". Our prayers are with Rich's family.

Yours in Christ,
Sean, Lauren and Skye

I thank God that he worked through Rich to touch all of us. He will be missed but a part of him will live on through his music forever.

Kerry Elizabeth

What a blessing we had in Rich. He taught me how to live...knowing that life is hard and that life on this earth is temporary. I knew of him for only two years, and during that time I became totally immersed in his "stuff"--music, writing, ministry

focus, concerts...I loved every minute of it, and I have grown so much! I thank the Lord for all the lives he touched during his life, and--praise God(!)--certainly through his passing, many lives will be touched as well. I caught myself thinking the other day--"what a way to go..." to be able to die in the Lord--Rich would say..."that is Awesome." You may also be interested in knowing, as I looked on an Illinois map to see the place where the accident took place (this was a map with "Gazeteer"), I discovered that Lostat, Illinois is smack dab in between two Townships. One is "HOPE" and the other is "RICHLAND." I just thought that was kind of neat! We know that the land in which Rich now dwells is heaven--and oh what a legacy of hope he left for us all.

Your sister in Christ,
Linda Sund

I have been saddened and shocked by the recent deaths of Diana and Mother Teresa, but when I heard of Rich's tragic death, all I could do was cry. I guess that shows who God has used to touch me the most. It makes no sense why such a gift to us would be taken so young. Yet I believe with Rich that the holy and awesome God we serve will one day redeem even this tragedy. My heart-felt condolences are with you all.

Robert Haney,
Pastor

Rich is home. As much as I have wept the last few days, I still have to remind myself how happy he is. If there ever was a man "longing for his home" it was Rich. I never knew or met the man, but the Lord used him to save my marriage. His songs ministered to my husband and I in a way that pointed our lives back to God and saved our marriage. Thank you Lord, for using Rich in so many ways to minister to your children and for fulfilling his desire to be home with you. Don't have too much fun up there without us.

We will miss Rich more than words or tears can express, but for the faithfulness that he displayed here on earth, God's reward to him was to bring him home early, to experience fully the peace that passes all understanding. See you soon, Rich. Man, will we have a party then!

Jennie

I just wanted to say that Rich Mullins was one of my favorite singers. I could tell in every song that he loved life, enjoyed creation, and above all, loved God. He will be sorely missed, but I know God will enjoy his company. Also, I wish Mitch healing. I know nothing about him, but I'm sure he is a brother in Christ, and I pray that he will make a full recovery. I also keep the Mullins family in my prayers.

God bless!

MARCIE PIERSON

We each have our own unique experience and thus we all have our own favorite artist(s). Rich was mine. Interestingly, the Lord impressed upon me to write to him just 4 weeks ago to thank him for his ministry and allowing God to use him to encourage the church. I never write letters, but I did write and send that one. His artistry has held a very special place in my life and in my walk of faith since giving my life to Christ 10 years ago.

In his music, Rich came the closest to capturing the wonder and glory of God, in as much as it is possible in words, of any artist I have heard. Also of capturing the essence of being a humbled, broken believer in the midst of a difficult world: the trials and joys of being a child of God. His gift of music combined with his poetry generated many powerful recordings full of encouragement and challenge.

"and when I thought that I was all alone

it was your voice I heard calling me back home
and I wonder now Lord
what was it made me wait so long
and what kept You waiting for me all that time
was your love stronger than my foolish pride
will you take me back Lord, take me back and let me be your child
cause I've been broken now, I've been saved
I've learned to cry and I've learned how to pray
and I'm learning, learning even I can be changed..."
--Growing Young

Rich had a special way of exposing the bankrupt philosophies of this world and then pointing clearly to the simple love and grace of our Maker. Rich had what must have been a great love for God's creation - the outdoors. In a world full of people that are "civilized" - that is - dependent upon the "man-made", Rich had a simple gift of appreciating the world as God made it. It is hard to see those who love the Lord so much be removed from us. But we have the joy of knowing that they enter into the presence of the One who loves them completely. And we will all join them soon enough. Welcome home Rich.

Patrick O'Keefe

To the Mullins family:

It would take literally volumes to explain the many, many blessings that have been brought upon my life by the life and ministry of your son and brother.

There has been no greater CCM music writer in my lifetime, no other than has had the ability to minister as Rich. Through the darkest moments of my life, his music was there to strengthen and encourage me, to remind me that the God which we serve will never leave nor forsake us; to remind me of the grace and mercy and love of the our awesome God. And the blessing did not stop there.

I shared his music with many others and watched as they drew closer to the Lord, re-dedicating their lives to God, and endeavoring to walk with Him - how Tina was able to defeat alcoholism, how Brent was able to overcome a wretched teenage lifestyle that nearly tore his family apart. I was out of town at the time of Rich's death, traveling in the car to Virginia and back with a friend from Toronto. Once again, Rich's music had touched and inspired the life of Becky (a Jew) to the point that we stopped at the bookstore before we even came to my home so that she could purchase "Songs." It was there that we learned of the accident, the clerk reluctant to relay the news.

As I walked from that store with tears streaming down my face and my heart broken, the Spirit spoke ever so gently to me and reminded me that Rich is not gone, but simply now in Heaven and that one day I would hear the new songs of his heart once again.

I'd like to thank you for raising a man of such faith. During the many times we attended his concerts, it became evident that these were more than just songs - that he lived the life that he wrote and sang about. What an incredible inspiration and example of the life that children of God are called to lead! There have been many that have started the race, but few, like Rich, who completed stronger than when the race begun. I am ever grateful for his life and his ministry, and thankful that his songs are here to continue to strengthen and encourage me and others.

As the mother of four children, two in Heaven and two here on earth, I am well acquainted with the sense of loss that you must be feeling. My prayers are with you, that the Spirit would comfort you and bring to you the peace that passes understanding. I will miss Rich horribly, and I know that soon these tears will subside. Surely, we are of one body in Christ, as I mourn the loss of a beloved brother. But even through these tears of loss, I know that when it is my time to cross the Jordan, that among the many others whom I have come to respect and love, Rich will be there, welcoming me home.

Peace to you,

Tamera Ragan
South Bend, Indiana

I am so sorry that you had to suffer this loss! Although I did not know Rich personally, I feel like I did. It would have been a great privilege to have met him. He sounded like a very nice guy. I heard lots of his songs on the radio that I liked, but I never realized that he sang them. I especially liked 'Elijah'. Do you think he did "go out like Elijah"? In a sense I think he did. But in conclusion to this letter, I am very saddened and moved by these events that have unfolded. Just remember, Jesus will never leave you or forsake you. He meant for this to happen for some reason and all of us will get to see Rich in heaven someday. :)

Deborah M
California
16 years old

Cornerstone Festivals (many), a couple of other concerts, all were amazing as are his albums. But at one Cornerstone Gallery stage concert Rich kept lifting up Jesus (as he does) so much that early on in the show it became a very heavy "church service" filled with incredible joy, love, tears and the sweet smell and presence of our Lord, Jesus. It was beyond "beyond." I saw Jesus all over the stage. I have met Rich many times and his musicians. He has Christ so much in him. It must be totally amazing to play with him. I have seen his gentle eyes up close. I have heard God's love in Rich's comments and the tone of his voice. I have been extremely touched by Rich's ministry of music. I can't praise God enough for Rich. No wonder it takes billions of angels and instruments at full tilt to praise God in the heavens. Rich alone is worth it.

William Latocki

I think it would be an understatement to say that the life of Rich Mullins was one of shepherding the children of God. His encouragement will be missed in a way that no other can replace. I for one thank God for sending him and the strength that my own life and the life of so many others has gleaned from his servant heart.

Mitchell Loften

Rich - Jesus' love and compassion was your whirlwind that fueled your chariot and we know that when you looked back on the stars, it was like a candlelight in Central Park and didn't break your heart to say goodbye

- Leta Blank

Rich was to this generation what Keith Green was to mine, a prophet of God sent to stir the conventional minds and hearts of the church back to it's original roots, back to God's unconditional love for us. Rich reminded us what was really important: Jesus.

I was fortunate to have seen Rich in Oklahoma City in July 1997. His ministry was always refreshing to me. And his words to me and the Youth of my church will ring in their minds for the rest of their lives: Be God's!

You'll be missed, Rich, and remembered fondly for years and years to come.

Travis Strong

When I have suffered depression Rich's music was a big help in healing my spirit.

Love in Christ

Dave

Like everyone who loved Rich, I am deeply saddened and grieved over his death. He made it easy to love him. I keep telling myself that he is where he has always longed to be--with Jesus, but that doesn't remedy the sinking feeling in my stomach. What I loved most about him was that he was so Godly and yet so real about his human nature at the same time. I met him a few times and attended his concerts often, he was so kind to me.

If we have learned anything from the recent outpourings over the losses of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana, it is that we humans need heroes and role models. Rich was a both to me, although I believe that he was uncomfortable with the thought of being a hero to anyone. Rich knew how to number his days aright, and he spent them in passionate and relentless pursuit of service to his King and Master. That is the legacy that he leaves to me, and I pray to live with the same intensity and passion for the Lord. Thank you to his mother for introducing him to and training him in the Lord and in music, and for releasing him to God's service. Thank you to his uncle who provided the money for his first song to be published. Thank you Lord for raising up Godly men like Rich.

Peace of Christ to you,

Cathie

please accept our heart felt sorrow for the passing of your son and brother Rich, we grieve your loss with you. but, indeed knowing he has passed into the arms of the one he held so dear , can lighten our heavy hearts. we thank God for the legacy he has left for us..

sincerely in Jesus
love the Wilson family.
our prayers are with you!

I am so sad to hear of rich's death. his music meant so much to me as a new believer and ministered to me in an incredible way. It is so good to know that he is with Jesus now.

-Sami Perkins

I remember a few years ago three of my friends and I drove in a borrowed convertible up into the hills by our house late one night. Our whole reason for doing so was to gaze at the stars and listen to the song Rich was singing in the Ragamuffin Band. As a result we all got to focus on Jesus a lot more together. I will always remember the hope and joy his songs brought to me. It is so encouraging that there is such hope in Rich's death. He is where he longed to be. Thank you Jesus, for letting us know the love he had for you!

- Cindy Smedley

My husband and I were totally shocked at the news. My father was baptized by the Spirit while listening to Creed (very shortly before he died) and we sang Sometimes by Step at his funeral. During a period of intense grief the songs on his albums ministered to me incredibly....I do not physically know Rich Mullins but, I sure did know him in the Spirit just by listening to his music I knew!

Terry Saffron

Though my heart is deeply grieved at the loss of one of my favorite musicians, I find a profound peace there also. I praise God for Rich's life and work, and am deeply grateful for the way his music has touched my soul and glorified the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. My prayers go out for all those who knew and loved him, especially his family, and for Mitch and his family. May the Lord comfort all of these with the peace that passes understanding.

Polly N

My husband and I enjoyed Rich's concert at our church last April in the Minneapolis area. Rich's music and his spirit touched us greatly. We esteemed him highly as our favorite christian musician. We are saddened but praise God for his life and ministry. Our children will support two Compassion children in his memory. Our prayers are with his family, his friends, and musicians and music listeners everywhere who are personally grieving by Rich's death. Rich wanted to go out like Elijah when he left this world, with a whirlwind to fuel his chariot of fire. Rich is with the lord and is free now. -Thank you God that we too are free but give us mortals grace to heal our broken hearts. May we have the strength to keep rocking for you, Jesus, until its our time to roll, as Rich did in his life.

God's grace, love and peace to all of us and especially to his family and close friends.

Marian Teske

We want to express our sympathy for his loss but our gratitude for his life. God uses us when we are willing and I believe Rich was. We are known by our fruits. It's hard to understand God and his reasoning, but he is an Awesome God and we have to believe in what he is doing. He knows the ending and all he requires from us is

obedience. Thank you God for all you have given us and for the short life of your servant.

DMJ

All of this excitement and surprise about our brother's death serves to remind me that his life is not a life to fuss over. No, his is a life to see as a brief glimmer. For his words, deeds, faults, music, and joy all serve as an arrow. One that points straight to Christ. His hope was that we would know and remember the name of Jesus. Thank you Father, for working through your servant. What a wonderful life!

Jonathan Hartness

I have known Rich. I praised God through the years for this man and his simplicity and precious refusal to live by anything except the truth of God. I've known him from when I was first saved--from darkness to light--while in college at UT Knoxville in the early '80's.

His infectious laugh never changed, it only grew more resonant through the years. We had a small coffee house in the basement of a Civil War house off campus called Aslan's Lair (for C.S. Lewis). Rich would come and play his dulcimer, and the Lair had an antique, hand-carved upright that was filled with delight every time Rich came to touch its keys.

We went on retreats together, took road trips together, did U2 concerts, roared through comedy movies, fellowshiped, laughed. I was there when he and Dane returned from their nationwide motorcycle tour of wandering and staying with whoever would take them in. We laughed that day so much our faces ached. I was also the person who house-sat at the Bellsburg homestead that first year that he toured with Amy for Unguarded. I went out to meet up with them for the Atlanta concert and bring him news of home.

When he got home, I don't know who was happier to see who--him or Bear.

He loved Jesus so much, and longed to see God's face more than anyone I've ever known, besides me. He lived "right," like he would die at any moment. Not perfect, just a no compromises man of God. Some resented him for it because he became opinionated, others envied him because they couldn't quite get there themselves. I loved him dearly for it, and always thought of him with glory dancing from his eyes--God's glory.

He was so very simple, yet complex. Our paths have separated over the years. The last time I saw him was at a benefit concert he did at Christ Church in Brentwood a little over a year ago. He was both glad and sad to see me. I shared deep truths that had been revealed in my life. I shared about my adopted daughter of Indian, Irish, and African-American heritage. I shared about my turbulent marriage and divorce which grieved him more than anything.

We have laughed until we cried real tears together. His heart and songs always grip real hard around my heart and make me cry out to God. He wasn't what the "world" called a great singer, but he was honest and real and pure and serious about the Lord Jesus.

I was such a young thing when we met. He saw my pain and awkwardness, my innocent way of looking at and loving people, and wondered if he frightened me because he was so opinionated. Funniest thing was, my insecurities have always gotten the better of me, and they alone prevented me from realizing that he liked me as a girl. We were kindred in our pain over the wrongs of this world, our love for the beauty of Jesus, and our refusal to live on the surface.

I shall miss his presence and his contributions in this lonely world of counterfeits. He was the real thing. When he got home, I don't know who was happier to see who--him or God.

With love in Christ,

Cynthia M. Langley
Juliet, TN

I can't find the words to describe the feelings that Rich conveys with his legacy of his music. I think it would be short-changing my memories to do so. So with that, I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of this loving man, because we know that he now totally absorbed in the presence of a Love that is pure. Rich has traded his liturgy and his legacy for a little more than a Ragamuffin Band. Thank you Lord for Rich.

Scott Luter

MY SPIRIT KNOWS NO BOUNDS (by Linda K. Barto)

If you listen, you will hear my laughter amidst the sounds of night, And it's my face that quickly flashes between moon beams and shadows. When you step out to begin a new day, it's my kiss the fresh breeze brings to your cheek. Life is like a rambling vine that begins in the shadows and follows a shaft of light that leads through a rock wall. I have followed the light, and, on the other side of the wall, I have found a garden in which to thrive. So, don't say good-bye to me, because the petals of my spirit surround you until your time to come to the garden where I bloom.

God Bless
Tom & Linda Barto

I was stunned, and sad, yet I believe that God will continue to raise up men and women of God to speak the message clearly as Rich did. I thought of it as an early graduation day for him, a day that many will remember. I'm praying for the family and friends who have experienced this loss and that the Comforter will enrich your hearts with His love. Amen

Anna deVaney

I thank God that Rich was so willing to be used by Him. The result has blessed me. And I'm sorrowful for someone that I did not know beyond the songs, yet in celebration for where he now stands--where all who have received God's grace by faith in Christ Jesus will one day stand. Glory is to God.

Dear God,

Let me be Thine, like the singer who sang from his heart, that was fed from the heart of the One true Vine,

Let me live without compromise, like the music of the man from Wichita singing in brokenness the lyrics of the wise

Mixing beauty and passion with truth in sorrow and longing, a melody of hope for this heart's completion

Words for the heart to wear, more aspiring than the asphalt of heaven's streets, yet humbly adorned with a hope to share

To live is Christ, To die is to gain, Oh that I might continue on with you, but this moment has been my gain.

"....and I can see the covenant colors."

Amen

Kevin McKee

How thankful we are to have met and heard Rich once again at a Christ In Youth Conference this summer. We are sad to have lost such a inspiring brother so soon and we are forever grateful for his timeless music! God used Rich's music to comfort, inspire, heal, and challenge so many.

David & Tracey Buster

I feel so blessed to have seen Rich Mullins in concert here in Burlington, Vermont at the Flynn Theater along with Carolyn Arends and Ashley Cleveland. It was a wonderful show. Rich gave his all and only at the end of the evening did he mention that he was ill and we learn how much that all really was. When I heard he had died the thought that ran through my head was this is "the day the music died."

Kimberly Nicasio

I still haven't figured it out, but for some reason Rich's music touched me in a way no one else's did. As a Pastor who spends his time in study and preparation sermons can get to be old hat for me. Rich's music would break and heal my heart when nothing else would. He helped me to sense the presence of God in the very ordinary.

When I met Rich at Cornerstone this past July he was everything I thought He would be. humble, unassuming, real, accessible. I told him how much the music meant to me and He replied that he was so glad he could be a blessing almost as if it surprised him. I haven't played one of Rich's CDs since the accident but in a while I will and I will find joy in the pain.

I am so sorry for your loss and Rich's gain. You have so much to remember and grieve for. But I will pray for you and take comfort in the fact that Rich won't have to sing "Hold me Jesus" anymore. May the peace of God fill your hearts with the hope of resurrection and reunion in Jesus who died to save us.

Dan Litfin

I don't know if it is right or wrong to have heroes. Certainly in this human existence there are no perfect ones save Christ. But whatever the case Rich Mullins was my hero. Not for the usual things people choose heroes for. He was not a war hero, or a sports hero, or a political hero, or an entertainment hero. He was not a famous speaker, or writer, or personality, in fact not really famous at all. He was not perfect and through the world's lenses was a small blip on the "big screen". But, through God's lenses and mine he lit up the world. He was my hero but not for the usual reasons people choose heroes. He is my hero because his life and songs echoed and created many of the life themes God has given me for my life, things I long to become. Those themes are passion for God and for life, real, deep, childlike wonder and joy, freedom and love, honesty, down to earth yet undeniably heaven focused and Christ driven. Most of all he always acted as a pointer to what is really real, "the stuff that lasts". He pointed the way for us on our journey to God. May God give me the grace to expand these themes in my own life and to constantly point others to God. Rich, you were my hero, my friend and my brother in Christ. I will miss your light greatly but I thank God that the light of your ministry remains. I love you brother and I can't wait to meet you!

Randy Keeley

Dear Family and Friends of Rich Mullins,

i just want to echo many of the others who are sad because of the immense loss we feel, while still knowing that our loss is Rich's gain. one of my future dreams was to hear him in concert sometime. i guess i will have to wait until we get to heaven, but that is not a bad thing. i'm sure God knows what He is doing. even though it is always so hard for those he left behind, God is sufficient and He will be our comfort. I pray that God reach out and meet you where you need Him the most. God Bless You!

Jennifer Howard

I met Rich once at one of his concerts. His Music and his life were both an inspiration to me. My deepest condolences.

In Him,

Patricia Garland

just found out today about Rich Mullins passing. My heart hurts. To me Rich was the David of the 20th century. No one could write a more heart felt Psalm. He will be greatly missed by our family. His music ministered Jesus to me and my husband. All I can think of right now is a line to one of his songs "I give my life to sing Your praise" am I willing to do that.

Tavy Hillaker

I heard about the accident last Saturday. I wasn't sure what to think or how i should feel. At first I was very angry, but then I realized the selfishness of my anger. It doesn't make sense to me why God would take Rich, but maybe God wanted Rich to just come home to Him. I'm currently in a singing in a band based out of Nashville. Rich has heavily influenced our music not only by the music he blessed us with, but also by the life that he lived. He was overlooked by many people in the music industry but Rich knew that his true reward was in Heaven. Unlike most of us, he did not rely on or need the praise of humans. I pray that I can have the patience and the attitude that Rich displayed in his life. I talked to him this summer while he was in Nashville, and every time I have talked with him he has made me feel special. The way he lived and the character he displayed caused me to want to know Christ more. God I thank you for allowing us to know and love Rich Mullins.

Justin Bradley

There are not many people (outside my family) who I can say influenced my life for 17 years. I am proud to say that Richard Mullins was one of those few who did.

I met Rich when he was at Cincinnati Bible College and involved with Zion Ministries. I attended a youth retreat at Woodland Altars Church Camp (OH) 17 years ago this month where the group ministered and performed. This experience changed my life profoundly as I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior there. Rich and the others were very instrumental in my decision and I will never forget that night.

I later became involved with Bellbrook United Methodist Youth Group (OH), which sponsored Christian singing groups for concerts at their church. I suggested Zion Ministries. The members of Zion so touched the lives of this group of kids that we began to attend as many of their concerts as possible, having youth retreats with them and became friends. I am a very proud owner of a very well used (and very well loved!) copy of Zion-Behold the Man (it is autographed by all who were involved with Zion at that time). It is one of my favorite christian albums!

We were very excited for Rich when Amy Grant decided to record Rich's "Praise To The Lord". We always knew big things would come of Rich Mullins.

Over the years since 1980, I have gotten married, had two kids, joined the work force full time, and have consequently gotten very busy. Yet through all those years, I have always tried to keep up with Rich's music. I got to see him in concert only once (during his early years) and I always hoped I'd get a chance to see him again in concert. Rich's music always touched a special place in my heart and soul and always brought back very special memories.

I read of Rich's death quite by accident on Monday in the Dayton (OH) paper.. I was shocked and devastated, yet happy for him. He

has gone to meet Jesus whom he spent years singing about. I like to think that all of Rich's family, friends and fans now have a special angel watching over them.

I extend my sympathies to his mother and family and to everyone who knew and loved Rich over the years. I pray for Mitch and his family in this very difficult time. Rich will be missed by this long time fan in Dayton, Ohio.

As I think of Rich's (and Zion's) song "Hope To Carry On", even with his death we must have hope to carry on!

"Love has come
Love has come
Love has come
And He's given my hope to carry on!"

Susan Mueller

Monday night, I dreamed that I was at a memorial concert given by Rich's band members. At the end of the concert the band members invited the audience to speak freely and ask questions about Rich's life and passing, when all of a sudden Rich was there. We all knew he was spirit but he was there as in bodily form and he comforted us with one last song. The tune was sung to the melody of "when I die I want to go out like Elijah" but the words were "When I'm gone I'm gonna throw a Christmas Party, cause I'm goin' home, I'm goin' home."

I woke up in tears and confused about "christmas" but as my head cleared I realized that Christmas is a celebration of Christ in whom we all have hope.

I'm 42 and have never mourned for anyone and now I find myself daily fighting back the tears for this man whom I greatly admire. I'll never listen to his music in quite the same way again.

Jay Guthrie

I enjoyed his music and ministry very much! I was lucky enough to attend a concert by Rich in the last 2 years. I was moved deeply by his love and support for the Native Americans. My sister and her family were missionaries on a Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico. My sister passed away 2 years ago at the age of 41 and was buried on the reservation. I flew from PA to NM for the funeral and was deeply moved by the Navajo people. Rich's concert was after my sister's death and I was touched again by him and his love for the Native Americans. I know that Rich is now with Jesus and we need to rejoice for him!

Paul Loss

Greetings,

I was very sad to hear the news of Rich Mullins' death. I really enjoyed his songs, and music. I wanted to remind his friends and loved ones about a Scripture, to consider during this time of their loss.

"The upright person perishes and no one cares. The faithful is taken off and no one takes it to heart. Yes, because of the evil times the upright is taken off ; he will enter peace, (in death) and those who follow the right way will find rest on their beds."
--Isaiah 57:1

I had heard the news on our Christian radio station. I have been sad since that time. But my faith and trust is in the wisdom and faithfulness of our God, and in knowing that Rich lives on forever in the presence of our Lord Jesus. In a moment, in an instant, Rich entered into that peace. May all of us Christians continue following in the right way, until we also find our rest in Christ.

May our Lord comfort and keep you all in this time.

Karen

Houghton College. I never heard of Rich until this year when I came to Houghton College. I found out who he was and what he wrote. "The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death." Isaiah 57:1,2. God Bless my prayers are with you. Trust in the Lord and He will give you peace.

God Bless and may your day be full of rainbows.

Fran <><

I just wanted to say that Rich was certainly used of God, and he will be greatly missed. I was blessed to see him 3 times in concert, and he was definitely one of a kind. It's really awesome to think that he's actually face to face with the One he sang about, at this very moment.

Kenneth Miller

Nothing prepares you for the loss of an artist who writes with such compassion and humanity that we all feel we've known him all our lives. Rich's music will continue to inspire others and help lead them to Christ. All of us in the United Kingdom will be praying with our brothers and sisters in the United States who are also hoping that Rich's family will be at peace in knowing that Rich is now right where he wants to be.

B.J. Jones

What a influence Rich was in my life and our teens at church. We played his music, and watch his different music video's. His life was lived for God and it followed out of him to others. Rich will missed but his impact will live on. In our prayers and thoughts.

Good is Good All The Time! "He Must become greater, I must become Less" John 3:30

Brad

It grieves my heart deeply to hear of such a great example of selfless, Christlike living been taken from us. Words cannot remove the pain, I know; however, remembering all of the great accomplishments and personal sacrifices made by Rich will serve to bring joy into the midst of our loss. May God bless Rich's family the same way that Rich has been a blessing to us. We'll miss you Rich. See you soon!

Ed

I don't even know how to begin to express the deep sense of loss I felt when I found out about Rich Mullin's death. I discovered him and his music two years ago at a concert he gave for the Texas Hispanic Baptist Youth Congress in Lubbock, and since then I had followed his career closely. I was blessed then, and continued to be blessed by his sincerity, his approachability and what seemed to me to be a tender, loving heart. His music, of course, was better than well-crafted. His sounds were rich, original, and his lyrics were so deep and beautiful. He just spoke to me through his songs in a way that nobody since Keith Green had been able to speak. I would like to send my condolences and my best wishes to Rich's family. We will miss him dearly.

Jesus Romero

To the family of Rich Mullins,

My family would like to express our sincere sympathy to you. I just wanted you to know how deeply sorrowed we were at the news of his passing. Also, I wanted to share with you what a tremendous influence his music has had on my second son, Cameron. Cameron is twelve years old and has loved Rich's music. Rich touched so many lives by his music, even that of a young child. I just wanted you to know how special Rich's music ministry was to our family.

In His unfailing love,
Penny Schlegel

In response to the death of Rich Mullins- I am so overcome with a wave of emotions. I was in church this past Sunday, and our pastor announced that Rich Mullins had died. I began to cry- for reasons unbeknownst to me. When I got home, I listened to Rich's "Songs" and when I got to "Elijah"- I started to cry again and thought- YES! This is what it is all about. Rich is at home with his Creator- and although I am so excited at the thought of that, I am sad, because this world has lost an awesome man- who was humble, gracious, and had such a beautiful way of communicating the gospel. I was blessed to see Rich in concert a week or so before I left for school, and I am awed by the show he put on. He was so genuine and talked to the audience as though we were all old friends. My prayers are with his family and friends and also with Mitch's family and friends. My heart goes out to all of Christian music and the people around this world that have been touched by Rich Mullins in some way. "...And it won't break my heart to say good-bye."
seerin

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

My family and I would like to express our love and concern for you and your family as you morn the loss of your beloved son, Richard.

We would like to share with you our memories of the times we shared with Rich. It was the summer of 1988, our youth group was headed to a Christ In Youth Conference held in Denver, CO. Our heads were filled with wonder of the new friends we would meet and the big city we were headed for, not knowing the blessings the Lord had in store for us. During one of the first sessions of the conference, Rich shared the lyrics of his newly written song, "Awesome God". This was the beginning of a new way of worship for many of us which brought many blessing throughout the conference. Before departing, we invited him to come to New Mexico and visit with us in Rio Rancho. Within a year we received a call from him, asking if they could come and minister in concert to the community. We were so excited to reacquaint our friendships with the guy's, not expecting them to come to a small town.

The concert was held on the evening they arrived, and everyone was blessed through his heart revealing way of worshiping the Lord. After the concert, though they were tired, we had a great fellowship. Rich was well taken care of that night in our home; our children were so blessed to be able to meet his needs. The group met back at the church around noon the following day, and the children of our christian school shared in a time of worship with them. We visited over fried chicken and fixings, afterwards the children hugged and loved on them, took pictures, received autographs and all the while the guy's were so responsive, though not completely rested!

We of course had to pick up our 4 yr.old (who is now 13) from nursery school, who immediately found a place on Rich's lap. The children will hold these memories forever and our family will lovingly remember your son's shy Christlike smile, his torn blue jeans, the ring around the tub, the smell of Patoulli oil and his intense desire to serve his Lord and Savior. Thank you for sharing him with us.

In His Love and Ours,

Fran, Teresa & Rachel Muldez

My friends and I are deeply saddened by this great loss. We do know that Rich is now in Heaven and he is rejoicing. We are also rejoicing with him. We are praying for his family. We are also praying that Mitch will have a good and speedy recovery and continue to sing about God's goodness.

--Kelly Covey
19/f college student

Monday morning as I drove to work I listened to Rich's music. As the tape played "Awesome God", I looked into the bright blue sky and felt that I could hear the Rich and the Heavenly Choir singing. God is surely preparing a magnificent choir to usher in His Return!

Pete & Diana Hughes

I am devastated but overjoyed by Rich's moving on to the Heavenly Kingdom. I'm sure that the Heavenly Host is rejoicing like never before, but the world will never be the same. What a loss for us. Praise the Almighty Lord for his life. He had a greater impact on my life and faith than probably anyone else; the Lord spoke mightily through him, and he will be missed.

I am praying for all who were (and are) close to him. Blessings to you. Rejoice!

In Him,
Melissa Knight Shipley

Rich Mullins was a man of God. Every song he sang was a fresh wind of grace for me. He helped define and shape my own faith. He put into words what I seemingly couldn't. His music disciplined me when my faith was new, and inspired me when I felt the call to full-time pastoral ministry. Today I am a pastor of a rural congregation of 175-200, and can attribute my current role to much of this man's legacy of faith and music which ministers to me in my quiet time. I encountered God through Rich, and I look forward to seeing him again very soon.

Grace and peace be with you.
Rev. Eric Bargerhuff,
Milledgeville, IL., Age 27.

It's hard to find words to express the sorrow I feel at the passing of this man. I truly feel in love with his spirit. Even though I never met him. He was a friend. There was a time in my life when I was so weighed down with the guilt of sin. I could not listen to my husband or friends preach at me. I could not endure the conviction of the Holy Spirit in reading God's Word. But, I could listen to "The World As Best As I Remember It" (Volume1). God used Rich and that album to speak things to me that no one else could. For that I am forever grateful. I thank God for sharing him with us for awhile and I'm glad he got to go home, but I can't imagine never hearing another new Rich Mullins song. It breaks my heart to think that I will never again (on this side of heaven) get a chance to see him in concert. In my opinion his music was the best in the world. I would like to thank his parents for bringing up such a wonderful child! They must have done so many things right. God used them to give us all a great gift. Our prayers are with his entire family and all of his loved ones. We are also praying for Mitch and his family.

Marty

Rich's music was a great inspiration to me when I was a young Christian. I was into the rock music scene before and when I became a dedicated Christian I still didn't like Christian music. I forced myself to listen to KLOVE. This is where I first heard his music. It really touched my soul and I bought the tape. It helped me grow stronger in my walk. When I met my husband he didn't like Christian music much so I gave him a Rich Mullin's CD. It spoke to his heart also. I thank God for Rich and I thank Rich for sharing his faith with others through music. He will be missed but he will always live in our hearts. We will continue to share his music with others.

Sincerely,
The Parkers

To the family of Rich Mullins:

I don't know how to express to you my sympathy for the loss of your son and brother. One of the things I appreciated about Rich was that he didn't resort to cliché's so I'll try not to use them here. Musically, I enjoyed his style greatly, but it was his lyrics that caught and held me. Somehow, even though we never had met, he seemed to know me, my struggles and joys and fears, and he captured these in his songs. He was candid about his life and his weaknesses, his wrestling matches with God, in a way that I don't think many of us are, and I appreciated his vulnerability.

We are all, to some extent, a product of our families. Thank you for being the influence you were to Rich. Please know that this is not some lightly made condolence letter. I often listen to his music and will think of you when I hear it. My heart goes out to you.

Sincerely,
Kris Kruger

Rich Mullins was introduced to me through my best friend at the time while I went through particular trials and tribulations in my own life. Rich's songs met and moved me in a special way that far outweighed the other voices and music out there at the time.

I was floundering in a divorce situation and then I heard "Hold Me Jesus". My friend bought me a can of blue paint and I painted my room light blue, just like Rich had done in his Wichita home and seen in his video!

Later I would attend two of his concerts, one with Carolyn Arends and Ashley Cleveland in Greenville, S.C. It was the kickoff concert to his "Brother's Keeper" tour and he rocked the house. My friend said to watch for his bare feet and his closing song. It was a real moving experience.

Later he came to Athens, GA where I now live with Eddie Middleton. It was a much smaller venue, but it gave the audience the chance to see Rich on a more personable level. He sang a capella and more acoustic stuff and spoke from his heart on a number of political and religious issues - with an honesty and frankness that I think took the audience somewhat by surprise. Yet, that is where Rich's life and legacy came from.

It seems that God was preparing us for Rich's passing into His Kingdom by allowing the Spirit to move and mold us through a true troubadour for the Lord in this special artist. There is only one Rich Mullins and I hope now that his work is recognized for its truth, integrity and sheer grit and honesty that set his work apart. God bless you Rich...

Bradley Smith

As a musician, I have often played on guitar and sung Rich's songs for friends and for service. I heard my first Rich Mullins song 11 years ago when I first became a Christian, and have hungrily awaited each new tape. I grew as a Christian listening to Rich,

his lyrics are so centered around the truth of the gospel, they would invoke in me, grief, happiness, repentance, worship, etc. Our men's Bible forum has the lyrics of My Brothers Keeper as our maxim. I praise the Lord that He allowed Rich to touch my life so profoundly and the lives of others. He will be missed. May the peace of Christ rest with you.

Mike Melanson

I thank God for the gift of Rich's music, which has touched my heart and life, and I pray for God's comfort upon the family at this difficult time.

Ann Slocum

My condolences and prayers for Rich and Mitch and their families. The legacy of joy will live forever in my heart.

David Foucault

Hamden,CT.

I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Rich Mullins. His music and ministry has been a part of my life for over ten years. His unassuming and simplistic approach and lifestyle was something that I really identified with and was drawn to because of my own experience of living in a Christian communal lifestyle and attending a Mennonite University in Virginia. I remember attending a couple of his concerts right after college. The first one was at Lincoln Christian College in Illinois and it was right when I was making the transition from college to my first teaching job in small rural midwest town. Something Rich said in the concert about singleness just touched and encouraged me. I wrote to him in Kansas a note of appreciation and was surprised to get a personally written postcard from Rich. This further provided encouragement throughout that year. Here's a quote, "I don't think there's any great thing about being single if you don't take

advantage of the freedom & simplicity of it. Loneliness is not a pleasant thing--it is a human condition & is present even in the company of close friends. Let it draw you up to God."

Mrs. Mullins, I know that I don't know what you and your family are going through. I want you to know that Rich's music and ministry has been something that God has and is using to draw me back to Himself when I get distracted with the things of this world.

Thank you and Love in Christ,
Denise Bowers

His music and ministry truly has touched my life and I thank him for that and thank God for giving him to us even though it was for such a short time! I know that everything happens for a reason and I know God wanted him to be with Him now to sing his beautiful songs in Heaven. THANK YOU, RICH!!! You will be missed!

Rick Riefke

I haven't felt like this since Keith Green died. As a young single man, Rich was an inspiration to me. My prayers are with the family. Rip Kenley

"Beloved I wish above all things, that you prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers." 3 John 2

Praise be to God for sharing such a wonderful gift with us in Rich our condolences to his family at this time he is not lost for we know where he is and will not be forgotten as he and his music lives on in our lives and in our hearts we'll miss you Rich

Marie Starling

Truly he was a prophet for this age. He lived completely for Christ and had a "No Compromise" Faith. He was a blessing to Christians all over the world. I rejoice that this servant is now basking in God's glorious presence, although the world is a poorer place without him.

regards
Matt

praise God for a the rich life of Rich Mullins!!! i was personally blessed by his huge heart through his glorious, worshipful, and sincerely real music. he expressed the cries of my heart to God in ways i never could. he was my favorite artist of all time for these and many more reasons. he will continue to be an example of humility and servanthood to people around the globe, and his music lives on in the worship of millions. our God truly is an awesome God, and Rich always did allow Him to lead him step by step in love, grace, and passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Nicole Daniels

Good bye old friend there is nothing new to say but the old old story bears repeating & the plain old truth grows dearer every day when you find something worth believing that's a joy nothing can take away we'll meet again in not so many years.....

thank you God for giving him to us for a little time
Kent Bradshaw

My husband and 9 year old son had the privilege of hearing Rich in

Joplin in August. We were so shocked and saddened by his death. His music was so special and so beautiful. My son Jordan would like to say how Rich Mullins was so great, I love his music. How he loves "My God is an Awesome God, and Step by Step, and Hold Me Jesus. Also we are praying for Mitch. He is glad Rich is in a happy place. Our prayers are with his family and friends and all the children that he worked with. All of who have been so affected by his music over the years will mourn his death. It must be a great choir in heaven.

Kay Mackey

We all know what Rich would be saying to us right now! Don't spend your time of grace crying for my passing, keep doing the work of the Lord! Share the Word, people! There are too many spiritually dying on our planet! Rich's work is done -- ours isn't!

SJ Janke

I didn't know Rich at all, but through his music I could tell that he was a very passionate and real man of God, as well as being a talented musician. God used his music in beautiful ways in my life to bring me close to Him and to call me back when I went astray. I know I will miss more of Rich's music, but I cried today thinking that he is home at last. I hope Rich is proud of the life he lived, because I want to be able to look back and see my life lived in such a passionate pursuit of God's kingdom. My heart and prayers go out to you who are mourning.

James Lundeen
Seattle, WA

I don't know what to say. I feel like I am have a bad dream. I was one of the many fortunate people on earth... I met Rich Mullins this summer at my job. I remember the first moment I saw him walk by the jewelry counter and I was amazed that he was there, but I didn't want to bug him, so I just kept doing what I was doing. I remember I was whistling and then someone behind me started whistling another tune. My supervisor commented about the birds chirping. I turned around to see who was behind me and I saw him face to face. I walked up to him pretending I didn't know who he was, and asked if he need help. My supervisor, who had notice my before excitement that he was there didn't allow me to hide that I knew who he was.

I am a music ed. major at Friends University, and I have many teachers that had him as a student. I have heard a lot stories him and all of them are good. Rich stood there at the jewelry counter and talked to my supervisor and I for about 15-20 min., about the teachers at Friends, and God. After I got off work, I thanked God for giving me a chance to meet Rich.

To all those people who never got a chance to meet him, let me assure you everything is true. Rich Mullins a real guy, not a egotistical musician whom had bodyguards all over him, and was to good to speak to his fans. Rich was the opposite. He loved music, he loved his fans, and most of all he loved God, and Rich had no bodyguards by his side, only one in his heart.....God! Only meeting him once was enough. His death effects me more than anyone will ever know. I just pray that Mitch will recover and Rich's family will also recover from this tragedy. We will all miss him, and there will not be day where I won't think about him. Rich spent his whole life trying to be closer to God, and now look where he is, as close as he can be!!!! One of my friends said it best when she said "The butterfly has flown." Rich Mullins, Be Gods. We Love you!!!!!!!!!!

Crystal Attebery

The world has felt a series of blows in the last few weeks, but

none hit me like hearing of Rich's tragic death. Tragic for us, of course, not for him. He was a man who followed Christ in song and in life. I remember his words on "World as Best as I Remember It, Volume 2" several years (and 3 albums) ago: "Hello old friends. There's really nothing left to say, but the old, old story bears repeating...". He continued to express that story in wondrous and deep ways, my favorite being "Creed", which helps us to sing out our faith in full energy.

I feel so blessed to have seen him at least once in concert here in Washington, DC, a couple years ago. Here is my latest song, inspired by memories of Rich, and remembering him in the third verse:

It's Hard to Understand

by Robert C. West - September 23, 1997

chorus:

Sometimes it's hard to understand the timing of things on earth:
How one man dies while another man lives and another arrives in birth.

So I have to rely on the One who made me, who saved me from my sin.

All things work together for good for those who put their trust in Him.

A woman raised before our eyes like a living fairy-tale:
A princess with a caring heart and beauty that never failed.
Our thirst for things beyond ourselves pursued her far too late.
Her mortality was a shock to us when she met her tragic fate.

Another woman, small and frail, but standing on the Rock,
Brought charity to the lives of thousands, in her simple frock.
Theresa was a gift from God, she served Him `til the last.
I hope her work continues through us, now that she has passed

A man who gave his life to music, singing for the Lord.
Inspiring me and others with his melodies and words.
To "go out like Elijah" was his wish, but at forty-two,

He left to sing in heaven, I guess his work on earth was through.

Jesus was just thirty-three when they led him to the cross.
The Son of God, the purest life, there couldn't be a greater loss.
But God, He had another plan, to resurrect his Son,
Jesus took our sin and now brings hope of life to everyone.

Now I'm waiting for the birth of my first child with my wife,
And this joyous gift from heaven continues the miracle of life.
God's plan is hidden and we know his ways are not our ways,
But he gives us joy and promises to be with us through our days.

Sometimes it's hard to understand the timing of things on earth:
How one man dies while another man lives and another arrives in
birth.

So I have to rely on the One who made me, who saved me from my
sin.

All things work together for good for those who put their trust in
Him.

God Bless,
Robert

I am amazed at how the Lord has used Rich to impact so many lives.
Never have I seen someone so ordinary; he was a true Ragamuffin.

"And everywhere I go, I see You..."

The Herzogs

Rich Mullins was a great songwriter and musician. He understood
that the created world reveals God's glory. I didn't learn of
Rich's passing until last Sunday. On Saturday, I was getting
ready to go out to a coffeehouse to hear a friend of mine play. I
wanted to listen to something in the car on the way. But it was a
short trip, so I wanted a tape that wasn't too long. A stack of

Rich Mullins' tapes caught my eye. One of his early ones would be perfect, I thought, so I chose his first one, Rich Mullins. It has "Elijah" on it. Mysterious ways...

-- grace and peace,
Brian Sullivan

Until long after it matters
You don't know if you're good enough
You can bet your dreams will be battered
So just go after what you love."
"Out of the Valley" -- John Gorka

My grief of the death of Rich Mullins is only overshadowed by the joy he brought to my life. I saw Rich the first time in Wichita Falls, TX in a local high school auditorium in 1989. #1 on the top 20 that day was "where are the nails that pierced his hand" the concert was not a long planned event and maybe 100 people were there. He walked out on stage barefoot, I thought this is different. I fell in love with the man and his music. We were close to Wichita, KN so many of his friends and family were there among the small crowd. It was like being in Rich's house, giggling, laughing & praising God.

I was blessed to see him again in Arlington TX in aug 93. He introduced us to "Hold Me Jesus", which had not been released. This concert preformed by him, turned tides. Suddenly we were singing and worshipping with this new song and he quietly played the piano and looked at the crowd with tear filled eyes. It was as if we were there for him. Never has a man and his music touched my life like he did. Grief tore through me when I learned of his death. But in the back of my mind I pictured him taking the hand of God and turning to a mass choir of heavenly host singing "Awesome God". What a wonderful greeting to go home to. What joy he is experiencing. My prayers and support go out to his family & friends, whose life, knowing Rich personally must be blessed many times over what his life blessed me.

Jeff Jones

Gosh, there's not a whole lot that can be summed up in mere words. I think God used this man greatly in his ministry. For me, Rich was really the first "ccm" music that I had exposed myself to coming to Illinois State University for the first time. I was pretty much alone, Bloomington-Normal was a town where I really didn't know anyone.

I eventually got hooked up with the local Intervarsity Chapter here and the words of "I see you" echoed true in that late night in a friends room when I first heard them. Several albums of encouragement and a sound that drew people close to God...close to the person that Rich loved and loved to be with...his music has affected us all.

Most recently, I would add, my Mom died of cancer last year and I think it is much of Rich's stuff that really was used by God to help me through that time emotionally and realize that really this life is horrible in some aspects. WE are children of the fall and we suffer, but we have a hope. People may die, but being children of God says that there is a hope beyond this life. That, my friends, is what he spoke of in his music. I pray God comforts his family and friends during the weeks and months to come.

Looking forward to that worship session in heaven,
--pete

When I heard Rich was coming to Ft.Wayne,In. I immediately bought tickets for myself and my three daughters(ages 14,10,and 4).I had only heard a handful of his songs off the radio, but I bought 3 cassettes that night. We waited around afterward hoping to have them autographed, when he came out he was so friendly and talked to us as if he knew us. My 4 year old still talks about the guy at the concert who gave her cookies after the show.My children

will cherish the tapes he signed for them. I never knew him before the concert but after talking with him, I felt I did. We will all miss him and remember him

Alex Cheng

I never knew Rich Mullins personally, just through his music. After I was saved in 1991, at the age of 40, his song, "Awesome God" became somewhat of an anthem for me after first hearing it. I wept when I heard he had been killed. My Christian walk has not been what it should be and I pray that I might be more like Jesus in my walk. I feel as if I somehow knew Rich personally through his music. I know I will someday get to see him in heaven. The last few lines of his song "HOME" keep ringing in my head and make me believe Rich really was truly longing to go home, as any of us who know Jesus as our Savior. We are all just passing through on this earth, I'm glad God let Rich Mullins and his music pass my way.

Rick

"And now the morning comes And everything that really matters
Become the wings You sent to gather me To my home To my home I'm
going home

"The other side of the world is not so far away..." --The Other Side of the World (Isaiah 11:1-9)

These simple words, framed by the frenetic picking of a 12-string guitar, offered to me the first glimpse into the heart of Rich Mullins, a man whose work, words, and walk were dedicated to Jesus.

Do I personally know Rich Mullins? No. Have I spent time with him? No. Have I ever spoken with him? Well, once for about 10

seconds before a concert. But through his musical insights into faith, love, and life, the most intimate parts of the soul, I feel like he was a dear friend and confidant.

"Our God is an Awesome God" --Awesome God (Psalm 145)

"What do you mean you never heard this song?" These were the words of a good friend when I told him I had never heard "Awesome God" or any other of Rich's music. My friend lent me the "Winds of Heaven... Stuff of Earth" album and so it began. It still truly amazes me how God weaves our lives together when He is the common thread. My friend and I spent a long weekend together with a music group in 1989, driving from Boston to New Jersey to hook up with the group. I kid you not when I say that we must have listened to "Winds of Heaven" at least a dozen times on the way down and a dozen more on the way back north, singing and praising the Lord at the top of our lungs the entire time.

"Could be a celebration or it could be a hurt that makes your soul awaken in the echoes of what you've heard, 'cause when your faith gets shaken, sometimes your heart gets stirred." --Could be a Celebration

How many times will the Lord send you a song or a friend or a Word to help you through a struggle? Several of Rich's songs seemed to exemplify Romans 8:28 and John 16:33. No matter what the situation, God's ultimate and divine purpose was far higher than anything we could see or control. How prophetic.

"Talk about your miracles, talk about your faith; my dad he could make things grow out of Indiana clay. Mom could make a gourmet meal out of just cornbread and beans. They worked to give faith hands and feet and somehow gave it wings." --First Family (Psalm 127, Psalm 128, Proverbs 31:10-31)

The things of life that matter. The blessings of a family, the closeness of friends, the brotherhood of faith, the laughter of a baby, the sunrise over a dew-drenched mountain, the never-failing love of the Father, and, as best as he remembered it, "the prairies calling out Your name!" The heartfelt joy of singing

God's praise. The only time my wife and I saw Rich in person he ended his concert with the Doxology, sung a cappella by the congregation, with Rich standing before the cross with his arms outstretched, worshipping the Father.

"So hold me Jesus, cause I'm shaking like a leaf." --Hold Me Jesus

The memories and thoughts are many but the words are few. Rich is now in a place he sang about often, the home he knew was waiting. Let us treasure the words, music, and the challenges of Rich's anointed ministry. I thank you for letting me share my heart with you all. And thank you, Rich Mullins, brother, for including us in your journey.

"And I can see the things that really matter become the wings you send to gather me to my home, to my home, I'm coming home!" -- Home

Mace Lewis

I have a story of a chance meeting I had with Rich and how it gave me a bit of an understanding of the kind of person he was. It's not some incredible testimony of how he changed my life or anything. But, this incident did stick with me and I thought I would share it with you. Here goes:

About eight or so years ago, the band I was in had a gig in Cincinnati, for which we got to open for Rich. I was pretty new to CCM and didn't know all the household names, except the artists who's song we were covering. So, I didn't know why my bandmates were so excited by this opportunity. I was also still young and less mature in life and the faith than my bandmates. I think they saw me as a little brother that they needed to keep an eye on to keep from getting into too much trouble.

We were playing under a tent on the adjacent acres of a small

church for their youth retreat finale. When we arrived, we had to start setting up immediately, so we really couldn't pay much attention to what was going on around us. Being a drummer, I'm always the last one finished with set up and this was no exception. The rest of the band had retreated to an eating area and I was alone on the stage. As I was putting my cases off the stage, I notice a peculiar sound. I turned around and saw this scraggly guy in tattered jeans hitting this weird stingy thing with these little mallets. I approached the man and started a conversation about the instrument. I said something to the effect of, "Wow that's a cool thing you're hitting." You see, drummers like stuff they can hit. And I was doubly impressed that he was getting a melody out of the thing. Rich introduced himself and explained the workings of the hammer dulcimer that he was warming up on. We talked shop for a few minutes and he tutored me on how the dulcimer was played and said he was looking forward to hearing our ministry. He graciously offered the mallets to me and told me to try it out and take my time.

After a few minutes, the rest of the guys in my band came back for our sound check and saw me hammering away on Rich Mullins' dulcimer. Our keyboard player practically ripped the mallets out of my hand. He was all, "What are you doing, you moron? This is Rich Mullinsn stuff! Get away before he comes back!" I tried to tell them that he showed me how to play it and told me I could try it out, but they were all nervous about it and scolded me. I felt like I was nine years old. I laugh about it, now. Anyway, they had to eat crow later, when Rich brought it up and said that I was a nice guy and such.

After reading about Rich's teaching of music at the Native American schools, I realize now, the kind of man Rich was. He was just taking another opportunity to teach. And he didn't care that he was famous. He didn't care that his dulcimer was a fine, expensive musical instrument. He was more thankful that the Lord had found him worthy, and provided him the resources to teach another person about music... and in that, also about God's Love.

So, even though I'm not a big fan, and I don't own any of his records, I learned a lot from him that afternoon about humility

and kindness, that will stay with me a long time. I think Rich would be more pleased at what I got out of our chance encounter than had I bought all his records and gone to all of his concerts.

-MIKE-

Rich Mullins was not only one of the world's best singer/songwriters, but was the most down to earth guy I have ever met. During Cornerstone this year I had the pleasure of spending a while chatting with him about what he was up to. He was in great form and enjoying life, but more importantly, lived what he believed. His faith was everything and his dedication to helping others, the Native Indians in New Mexico, folks he met on tour, other musicians on the road...his caring never stopped!!

As a tribute to the man we all miss dearly, let's strive to continue in our lives the way he lived...maybe then his thoughts and teachings through song and life will continue. Goodbye Rich.... We never got to say Goodbye.. but we'll meet again one day!!

Dave

Thank you God for blessing us with Rich Mullins for these past forty one years. Thank you for his faithfulness to you and for his stewardship with the talents you gave him.

To all: Although we are tremendously saddened by Rich's death, what lessons can we learn from it? As for me, I am profoundly thankful for the Rich's witness through music. For a thick-skulled person like myself, it was music that was the key to making God to me. Recalling one of Rich's songs, "you never know who God is gonna use---a princess or a baby, or maybe just you and me." Only now will Rich find out all the lives he has touched. As for the rest of my earth-bound brothers and sisters, may you

faithfully run the race ahead with perseverance, always trusting (though maybe not being able to SEE) God's hand in it all. I love you.

K. Phillips-Matson

Rich's life, his writings, his music, his love for Jesus have meant so much to me. His music has influenced mine. I met him in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He truly was a humble, kind, self-effacing man of God. It was a privilege to know his life. He represented Christ. I am part Indian also (Cherokee & Shoshone) and I'm Irish. You can imagine my affinity to him and his expressions of joy through music. I am so grateful to God for Rich's life. I keep crying, but still, I am happy that He is where we all long to be...in the presence of the King...the Lord of Heaven and earth. Our family prays for Rich's mother and siblings, and for the McVicker's.

Liza Christian

I just want to wish Rich's mother my best. This day had to be hard for her.... the first service probably over about now. I know she must still be in shock. Let her know that she is in our prayers.

Rich's music touched my life so many times, in so many ways. I myself have gone through some rough times lately and his latest collection is one of the guiding lights that got me through. I thank God for Rich's time on this earth and rejoice with him in going home at last. He is singing his ultimate praises now cradled in the arms of God the Father. His music will never stop spreading the word of God and he HAS left a legacy of joy, compassion and praise.

Thank you God for sending us a mighty mouthpiece of your love if even for such a short time.

In God's Love,
Beth Conner
Jacksonville, FL

My family and I can only grieve a portion of the grief that is yours. Please know you are in our prayers as we thank God for the loan of Rich's life and ministry to us. Our little fellowship has it's worship time on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. here in Southeast Florida. We will be singing some of the songs the Lord sang thru Rich as we worship this weekend and as the service goes on in Kansas. We loved the music he gave us even though we did not know Rich personally. The sadness is real because your love is real. We are consoled by the FACT that we will sing the songs and play the music together again in holy harmony when we are all united with Christ.

God bless and be with all of you all ways. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the resent nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:38,39)

Pastors Fred and Karen Mortensen
Boca Raton, Florida

Rich Mullins' ministry truly touched my life. His songs reflect his zeal for our Lord. His death is a loss to us, but it is a gain to him. Rich is now in the arms of his Savior.

Miriam

I was fortunate to meet Rich in the early 80's when he and Zion

ministries visited the Andover Church of Christ in Andover, Oh and Deep Valley Christian Service Camp in Slippery Rock, Pa. I was a new Christian at the time and was just getting my feet wet with our Sr. High Youth Group as a counselor. Rich and his ministry helped both the kids and myself. Over the years I was able to follow his career in Christian music and whenever he was in this area, we would load up the church bus and go to his concert and then fellowship with him afterward. I look forward to hearing him again, when he sings for The Master. I thank his family for sharing him with us during his brief stay on earth.

In His Precious Name
Karl H. Reimer
Kinsman, Oh

I no longer find it so odd that no sooner had I heard the news of Rich's death that my eyes filled with tears and rolled down for so long afterward. I see the same is true for so many, many others! How well we KNEW him, if even from afar, and how greatly we will miss all that he was. I nearly laugh through my tears to discover that I am not the only person by any means! --who has driven around year after year, unable to stop playing his music, nearly every time I get behind the wheel. As a passionate lover of the prairies myself, how I do envy him, now, knowing he has actually ascended to "the place where morning gathers" and that he does truly now "see what time may never know"! To those of you, family and friends, who really did know Rich, I pray that the great void that used to be his hug, his voice, his laughter, his tears, and all of him that you will miss so keenly, be filled with the never-failing love of the Savior he so joyfully praised. Be borne up in "the hope that this thirst will not last long, that it will soon drown in the song not sung in vain." Praise God!

E. Prarin

have had kind of a personal relationship with Rich. From the days

of Cincinnati Bible College, to the Jesus Coffee House, he was known for his piano playing. At the Jesus Coffee House were many alumni who were and are still in Christian Music, from Geoff Thurman to Orlando Luckey to The Willoby Wilson Band, we all shared music with Rich Mullins when he was with Zion (his local group). Hearing of his death, but life in heaven, brings back the years of 1982-84, when we all gathered on Saturday nights and played and sang around the piano. He is and will be greatly missed, but we will see him again.

Orlando Luckey

My name is Joe Hagala and I live in Tacoma, Washington. Every month I write an article for our church newsletter. Well, I wrote this month about Rich. And what I say is true -- he did impact my life in a very big way. I never did shake his hand because I'm not one of those who goes to a concert to hob nob with the famous. I felt close to him for who he was, and I always left his concerts with a closer feeling to the Lord. I have used his lyrics in meditations before the Lord's supper at church and used the testimony of his walk in my Sunday school classes class.

Several years ago when he did a concert over in west Seattle at a church there, him and Beaker were on KCMS that day. Well at the concert Rich was busy talking during a break, I talked with Beaker. He told me that people were calling in mad that Rich said that people in America had it easy as far as their faith was concerned, that other countries were suffering for the Lord. Rich was right. And I guess some people were convicted enough to raise a stink. If you do talk with Beaker he may remember the guy who just found out he had relatives in czechoslovakia. Or maybe he won't. That was about 6 or 7 years ago.

I have cried listening to the words of several of Rich's songs because it was exactly how I felt but could not express it in words. One that hit me very hard was;

Surrender don't come natural to me
I'd rather fight you for something
I don't really want than to take what you give that I need
and I've beat my head against so many walls'

I have the flat spot on my head to prove all the walls I've beat!
An interview Rich once gave explained the girl in 'The River ' and
it helped to put my Dream girl into words and into prayer, and the
Lord did bless me with her. Who by the way shares my enjoyment of
Rich's music. We played the song 'Creed' at our wedding as a
testimony of our beliefs. I even toyed with the idea of inviting
Rich to our wedding, now I wish I would have at least tried.

Well I have probably gone on too long. But Rich is on my heart
and I am thankful for a way to express my thanks for his being a
part of my life. We pray for peace for his Family and for
Marshall Mcvicker. Please let me know if there is anything else I
can do or pray for.

In His service,
your brother,
Joe

Here is the article I wrote:

From The Corner
by Joe Hagala

Well, I lost another friend. Actually I didn't lose him, because
he went home to be with the Lord. And although I never met Him
close enough to shake his hand, we were friends because we shared
a common interest, his music. And although we grew up miles
apart, we were brothers because we shared a common father, The
Lord.

We shared the same thoughts, the same feelings, the same
heartaches. How he knew what was inside of my heart, I will never
know. But listening to those things put to music changed my life
forever. Song after song reverberated with the words of his heart
and the fact of who the Lord was. And that the Lord IS Awesome an

d the Lord IS to be Praised. And that in this life you can drive as far as you can drive but never be as far as your heart should be. And the one line that changed the way I looked at life forever is, nThis is real life baby, this ain't no hollywood dream.' He sang his songs as praise to the Lord, not as praise to himself. He knew what was real.

Rich Mullins is considered to be one of the best writers of Christian music of all time. Before you say anything, think of how many churches sing, Our God is an Awesome God. He wrote 9 albums with more than 50 hit songs. He could play a variety of instruments, all very well. And writing songs flowed easily from his heart. And yet he once said that there was no difference between us and him, just that he was up front. H e was real. The words from his heart became words of my heart and I thank the Lord for this brother, this friend. 9/24/97

I would like to join with the many others in expressing my sincere sympathy to Rich's mom and family. Although I knew Rich only through his concerts, songs, and writings, I feel as though I have lost a good friend. His music and message touched me in ways I could not imagine, especially when I was going through some very difficult times in my life. I truly feel that God used Rich to impact the lives of many. I know of several friends, besides myself, who felt drawn much closer to the Lord because of Rich.

Several friends and I were privileged to attend a concert by Rich about six weeks ago in Milwaukee, WI. I remember that among some of the other things he stated, he said, nI love my mom -- shens great!n What a wonderful thing for a son to say in front of a bunch of strangers. I'm sure that you all miss him terribly, and I offer my sincerest condolences. I thank God for the music and ministry of Rich Mullins. He will be sorely missed, but the message will not be forgotten.

Karla Moll
Watertown, WI

We were sorry to hear the news. Rich was one of our all time favorite artists. His music was a blessing to us. My first albums were his. Remember he's now with the Father above blessing Him up there.

Leeanne and Lana
MKs from YWAM Salem
Thank God I'm Free Forever!

Soon after becoming a Christian. Rich was the first contemporary Christian artist I discovered and I connected with his music immediately. His lyrics spoke to me, and in many ways, spoke for me (the way music often does for us). I'm sorry that I never got to see Rich Mullins in concert. We only had one or two opportunities in the last two years and neither one was possible. I wish now somebody had a video they could share of a performance so I can see what he was like in concert...

Rick

Rabbi Rich - Theologian, comedian, songwriter, boy, musician, friend, and brother gone to be with Jesus. "If I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his home." What difficult words to follow as we mourn your passing. We are still newlyweds, and when we met a little over four years ago, one of the most intriguing things we found out about each other was our love for Rich's music. Sometimes we have "Rich" playing daily-we never tire of his music. You can think as deep as you want to about the lyrics or just enjoy the beauty of this master musician. Few song writers compose music with such transparency and personal testimony. Rich's music brings the Bible to life and reveals the awesome power of God in nature with great simplicity.

God has revealed to us through Rich's music the freedom we have in Him. His concert in Minneapolis, MN this past spring surpassed all concerts we have attended in regards to a sense of worship and admonition for God (not to mention the most incredible group of musicians we have ever seen on one stage). Truly this man walked with God. We are reminded of a quote by T.S. Eliot as we absorb the shock of his departure, "In the stillness is the dancing."

"First Family" - May God's Holy Spirit be your comfort in this time of great loss. Rich has left us a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

God Bless.

Bruce & Annette Knudsen
Pine City, MN

As a 39 year old single, I appreciated Rich's moral purity. He was open, honest and vulnerable about his struggles, which made him an example of holiness and how to live. He was a man that was honorable and noble. He lived a life of integrity and purity. I thank God that He graced us with a man like Rich for these few years. I will pray for you as we grieve for our loss. One day soon we will be united and will sing again with Rich.

Elaine Oglesby

When I became a Christian two years, three months and 10 days ago, my musical preferences didn't change, but my desire for nourishing lyrics did. Soon after, the first Rich song I heard was "Awesome God." Soon after that, I bought "Brothers' Keeper" and I was immediately hooked into this man's view of the world and his ability to put it into writing and music. Rich's music helped me connect in a deeper way with Jesus and see our Savior in a deeper, more personal light. Rich's music also gave me a form of expression (just as most music does for so many).

I never met Rich, never saw him in concert, read a few articles and a heard a few interviews, but somehow (like so many) I felt like I knew him. Not just knew him, but KNOW him still. You see, even though Rich is gone from this earth and living in God's eternal kingdom (and playing a lead role in an amazing band!!!!), his music is very much alive and well, and here and now for the rest of us. As long as we have his tapes and CDs and articles and interviews, his music and his influence lives on. I know I can't bring Rich back or make his family and friends any less sad or lonely right now, but who among us, if given the choice, would deprive Rich of his heavenly glory if we had the choice. No, Rich did what he was supposed to with the gifts God gave him, and now he's in heaven forever and ever, and God will continue to bless us with his music.

A true heartfelt thank you goes out to the family and friends who nurtured and encouraged that gift and helped Rich bring it to a beautiful fruition!!! That fruit lives on in our ears, in our mouths, in our minds, in our hearts and in our souls!!!

Karen Scott

My husband and I were first introduced to Rich through some friends at a concert at Eastern Nazarene College about 6 years ago, and we have collected all his music since then. So much of his music has touched us deeply, and even moved me to tears often. I am so thankful for his gift of brutal honesty and true Biblical teaching through his writing. Like Michael Card, we hold him up as one of Christian music's few who are so humble, and not seeming to be out there for the fame and fortune, but to truly lead us all into a closer relationship with God! We just have to hope and pray that more will be done for God's glory by taking Rich home to Heaven than it could have been by leaving him here with us. The next time we sing "Awesome God" in church, and I hear my 7, 6, and 2 year olds belting out the words, I'm sure that it will bring tears to my eyes...I feel so blessed to have been given such a talented musician and Christian man to be able to experience a bit

of heaven down here on earth...can't wait to have a concert in Heaven for God with Rich and others! We are praying for God's comfort and peace for you in your severe loss-he has touched us all!

Bruce Nyquist

I remember growing up in Topeka, where I was constantly around church folks, and religion became stale for me. It was when I was about 14 that I first saw Rich in concert at a C.I.Y. camp in Bolivar, Missouri, where Christ came alive to me--partly through Rich's music. It wasn't until I moved to Wichita to go to Friends University that I was able to really meet and get to know Rich, and although we didn't "hang out" and do many things together, I did get to know him in a way that really touched me. I was able to peek, if only for an instant, into the mind of a brilliant creation of God. Rich brought so much insight, so much love and compassion and a great sense of humor to every conversation. This moved me.

It wasn't his fame that impressed me, or his musical talent , as much as his ability to yield himself to God's will in his life, to be used by God to reach so many. Upon hearing of Rich's home going, I was shocked and sent into a state of remembrance, where I finally realized that, although I had learned many lessons from Rich, I had never really learned from him the ability to fulfill the important obligations of life. I thought of how many daily struggles and problems I encounter, how I always seem to be beating my head against brick walls, and then it occurred to me...I wasn't even like I used to be...back when I knew Rich and we went to Bible study at Friends Univ. I finally woke up and realized that life is too short to not do what God calls us to do, and that we can rise above the daily drivel of normal living to commune with God.

Thank you for the last time. Even if you are not with us, the Spirit that was inside of you stays with us, reminding us of all

you meant in our lives. To the family, I send my absolute deepest sympathy and condolences. I am sure that Rich was the jewel of your Thanksgiving table, the way he had a tendency to have the right joke for the right time, and was always there to lift up spirits that were down. I know you will miss him, I miss him too. My greatest comfort is now knowing that the one who taught me to sing about an awesome God is now known and knows just how awesome our God is. We will see Rich in Heaven, but we shall miss him so much on earth.

God bless you and keep you,
Rev. Mark A. Long
Dallas, Texas

"When my spirit clothed immortal wings its flight to realms of the day, this my song through endless ages...Jesus led me all the way." Rich Mullins did more than write and play music. He told stories, wonderful stories, true stories. In his songs he told us about his family, his faith, his struggles...and ours. I've grown up as a Christian with Rich's music. My best friend gave me "Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth" just after I got saved. At an InterVarsity camp I took great joy in singing his songs with a good friend over dirty dishes. I had the privilege of seeing him in concert twice. Rich, you are God's. "Love is found in the things we've given up, more than in the things that we have kept." -- what Susan said.

A brother in Christ.....
Howard Scully

We will miss him and his music. The LORD blessed him with so much, and he certainly blessed many of us with the GOD's word in music! My 2 adult daughters will never forget him.....

Norm-Ankeny

I am a 53 year old with college children, a girl and a boy. Both were fans of Rich beginning about ten or twelve years ago. My wife and I would take them to his concerts in the Dallas area. Once they got to meet him at a book store and have their picture taken with him. The reason I mentioned my age is that I enjoyed Rich's music as well. He will be missed!

Bill Weathersby

We never saw Rich in person but his music was (is) wonderful and his God given talent blessed the world. We will think of him every time we hear "Awesome God" or "Creed". To Rich's mother we would say we are parents who lost a son 2 years ago - we believe with all our hearts we will see our son again in eternity. We believe you will see Rich again one day - may God be with you (and his sister and other survivors) each one and bless you. Rich will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,
The Millers

I am profoundly saddened at the death of Rich. I think everyone felt they knew him because he was such a humble and down to earth person. I cry because I know I will miss him but at the same time I have to give praise to God for giving me the pleasure of his music for a short time and for the opportunity to meet and talk with him over the past four years. Rejoice Rich!! "Peace To You!" You're home and I rejoice with you!

Kelly Nelson
Dallas, Texas

My heart goes out to Rich's family and loved ones. I will be praying for them. But he is better off now. Heaven welcomes him and he is at perfect peace with God. He is now face-to-face with the Creator he had been so passionate about on this earth. We+ God bless his family and fans!

Sincerely,
Janna Kuiphof
Holland, MI

Rich Mullins was a great guy. A vessel for God is the greatest a man can be, humble in the hands of the Author of creation. And that describes Rich. Virtually every church has sung Awesome God at some point, and he was a man who knew that he was a man. And that's why he praised a God that he loved and served with his life, also giving out to us through his music and touching our lives with his songs. His legacy? His music. But I believe Rich would want the Bible to be his legacy, for it is what he sang about: God. The Word. We miss him.

W Dax

For the music that brings my heart to a standstill to hear the quiet whisper of the Lord, I praise God for Rich and his ministry and what he has meant to our family. Our loss is his earthly presence...he is perfect and whole at the throne and probably barefoot, too.

neita

My family was very sad to hear of the tragic death of Rich Mullins. His songs have been inspiring us for several years since our oldest son joined the youth group at our church especially

"Awesome God". Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We also know the pain of losing a son. It gives us just a glimpse of what God experienced when he gave up his only son for us. God bless you.

John Rodgers

Hello! I am a fellow Christian and I wish to give my condolences at the loss of your son. Although I did not know Rich personally, at least face to face, I felt like I knew him, through the words he sang and the life he lived. I would like to say to Mrs. Mullins, I am especially sorrowful for you. Last year I too lost a son. My son was only 5 days old, but no matter if they're 41 years old or just 5 days, nothing breaks a mother's heart like the loss of a child. I know all of this came as a complete shock to you, and for that I can do nothing, but the last year and a half has shown me how gracious and awesome our God truly is. There have been times when I wanted to shut the world out, and at times I actually did, but I know I must go on, although I don't want to sometimes.

I don't have words to say how I hurt at the loss of a great man of God, but I have even fewer words to say to you, for your loss is greater than any of us, his fans, could ever feel. I will be praying in the coming days, weeks, months and years, that you will find peace, as I have just recently, knowing that Rich touched more lives than anyone can fathom through his gift of words and music, and through his other efforts, like his work with the Native Americans and Compassion International. I admire people like Rich who give their whole lives trying to win "just one more" to God, and I truly believe that was his calling in life.

In St. Louis they have been playing a tribute to Rich daily, many times a day, and it consists of an interview that Sandy Brown, a morning DJ on our local Christian Radio Station WCBW, had with Rich just last year. In that interview, he spoke often about how thankful he was to be alive. We are truly thankful as fans to

have had him for the time we did too!

As for the rest of the family, I will be praying also that God will somehow fill your hearts with peace. The hardest thing for me when I lost my son was I kept asking "WHY???" It's always someone else, but not me. Well, it did happen to me. But through it all, in the long run, I am a stronger person because of it. My faith in God has grown, my walk with God is stronger and my love for people has changed. I never knew I had such a strong capacity to love, but since my son's death, somehow that is a gift God has given me that I've always longed for.

I don't know what God will teach you through all of this, but don't give up on God. He is an "Awesome God" and His ways are higher than our ways. Keep reading the word of God, for this is where you will receive strength when you feel you have no more; His words are life when you feel you don't want to live any more; and His words are hope, when you feel you've lost everything, He will become your everything! God bless you all during this difficult time!

In Christ,
Cindy Mathews

Our prayers are with you and your family at the temporary loss of your son. Rich's music ministered to my wife and I in a great way. My prayer is that all of us will be as sensitive to the holy and as apt to worship not being satisfied to know about God, but yearning to experience him as well. Rich's songs reflected this yearning and experience. God bless you at this time, and may he give you the strength to endure the grief, knowing that we have the "hope to carry on."

In Christ,
Brad and Robin Wheeler

When I heard about Rich, I almost didn't believe it. But it wasn't sadness that struck me..it was a quiet, peaceful joy, knowing that Rich was where he always longed to be. His sojourn is over. He's where he always loved to sing about...home. I'm a college student and I remember one evening last Christmas sitting in my room at home listening to "winds of heaven..." which I had listened to 100 times. I had just finished what is probably the darkest time in my life, where I was stuck in disobedience. How many times my hear echo Rich's cry of the surrender that didn't come natural to me and for some reason I would rather fight my lord for something I didn't really want than take what He gives that need. But that night, the Lord spoke to me through Philippians 3...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. it was then that my ears perked up to a song that I had heard a million time but never really listened to.

G Aris

Hello,

I am writing, like many others, to offer my deepest condolences to you and your family. While many of us mourn the loss of a great man that we respected, you must mourn the loss of a son. I literally cannot imagine what this must feel like, but I do share a little in your sorrow. The news was a shock to me. I am greatly distressed in Rich's departure, but am also glad for him. I am sure he would not want to come back! I have tried to test my heart and learn the true reasons that I lament his death.

I did not know Rich at all. I did have the opportunity to see him in concert, but never had the chance to meet with him personally. I have no idea what he was like as a person. But as a man, I did look up to him with admiration. He was a musician, a songwriter, a poet, and a true artist. I considered him a savant; a man gifted with true wisdom. But these are qualities that any man may possess. Rich's music was a step beyond anything else I have heard; Christian or not. While I do enjoy a few other Christian

artists, I always felt Rich presented a slightly different view. While most Christian music today focuses on us as Christians (we should pray, we should do good to others, we should focus on Jesus, etc...) Rich seemed to write music ABOUT God and TO Jesus. It is easier to write to an audience when you talk about things they can easily relate to. Most of these things have to do with us.

Rich wrote about things that are a little more difficult to relate to; like the fact that God choose the color blue for the sky! Think about that! Children see it! Sometimes we as adults miss it. Rich taught me to see God in absolutely everything around me, whether I believe it is good or not. God made it all, and therefore it is GOOD. I had always hoped that we might meet. Like many others, I would fantasize that we would become friends. I am sorry that I will never get the chance to find out if we would have been friends.

But all that is not the reason I will miss Rich. You see, Rich was just a man; just like you and me. In himself, Rich was not that special; none of us are. But God planted a piece of himself in Rich when he made him. He put a very special piece of him self inside Rich; a piece that allowed us to see a very small part of God's true nature. A piece that emanated love and joy and peace and wonder and happiness and... Jesus. God gave this to Rich, and Rich choose to share it with the world. I greatly admire the man, Rich Mullins, because he was obedient in sharing that precious gift God trusted him with. I fear that many of us have not. I raise my hand first.

No, I mourn Rich's death because when he left, the gift left with him. I almost feel that there is less of God here on earth now... and that is a difficult though to deal with. But in all things, death is required to spring forth new life. I am confident that the gift God gave Rich will be reborn, and the glory will be awesome. And I know that God will sit on his+ glory radiating from every creation. And they look at each other and exclaim... It is good! My prayers and thoughts are with you during these most difficult times.

Michael Halleck

Dear Mullins Family,
May the God of all comfort during this time of sorrow. I am
praying for you as you go through this. Your son was an example
of how to live a life sold out to God.

E. Glesby

Father for the privilege of having heard the Gospel of Christ
through His faithful servant, Rich Mullins. We thank his family
for faithfully supporting a man that touched so many lives with
his music. We sorrow fully celebrate his return to the arms of
Jesus. May the Peace of Christ be with all of us who have stayed
behind. We love you and miss you, Rich... see ya soon!

Alex and Mariela

I can't say enough how God has used Rich Mullins music to enrich
my walk with Jesus. Rich's honesty in his struggles and the
example of the living Grace of God has truly been an
encouragement.

K. Lane

Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of our son.
Those of us who did not know him personally will certainly miss
his ministry and his music, but we realize that you have lost a
son. Our prayers are with you and your family. Thank for sharing
your son with the world. He truly changed it.

Russ and Debbie Tidwell

On earth he sang to the One he had never seen but had known mightily through faith, almost as from a distant shore. Now he sings to Him face to face. No longer from a distance, his course now finished has brought him home. With songs so powerful and touching penned through faith, what must the songs be like now as he sings before the throne, the angels, and the redeemed. I can only wonder..... as from a distant shore.

The Ward Family

I was blessed to have had the opportunity to meet Rich at a concert in Midland, MI last fall. During his concert he gave a thumb-nail sketch of his faith while discussing current issues. His theology struck me as being so perfectly simple, as if straight from the view of a child's eye. His lyrics constantly challenged me, not allowing me to become content or comfortable in my walk with our Father. Unlike so much of today's CCM, Rich's music spoke of a simple, humble everyday struggle to love one another, like in the song "Hard" from Liturgy. Listening to his music, one could just know that Rich understood their struggle and had walked in those same footsteps. We have lost our musical saint. May we all find the courage to live out our faith, picking up our crosses each morning as Rich did, with grace, hope, and passion to serve the Lord and His children.

I also wanted to share an experience I had with Rich. After a concert in Midland, MI last fall, Rich was talking to about 30 or so die-hard that had stayed late to speak with him. I think that he actually talked to each of us there personally, much to the dismay of his manager. I was the last in line, and only had time for a quick statement. So I said, "Peace be with you." I think this caught him a little off guard, but after a startled facial expression he said back, "And also with you" and then he turned and walked backstage. As Rich took inspiration and encouragement

from the Life of St. Francis, let us, oh Lord, be inspired by the
faith and love of your musical saint, Rich Mullins.

Brad Ferrari,
Saginaw MI

My prayers and thoughts are with all of you as Jesus called on
your angel. WHY... we question why... with such a powerful
ministry and a drive to do Godns work... but thank goodness, this
is just a very temporary separation... as we will all hold hands
and sing together soon.

Rich, you did leave joy... and your music will live in our hearts
forever.

A sister in the Lord and fellow musician,
Charlene Law

Words cannot express the thoughts and feelings I've had over the
past days since I've learned of Rich's passing. I wish to express
my heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones who have been
left behind to mourn his loss from our place in time. My thoughts
and prayers are with them. Rich's words and music have touched my
life in many ways. They have lifted me up, touched my heart, and
most importantly encouraged my walk with Christ. Rich was not
only a gifted musician but truly a Minister. Than ks be to our
heavenly Father for the blessing he gave us by creating and
gifting Rich Mullins. We will miss him.

The Howell Family

Mrs. Mullins,

I never got a chance to thank Rich personally for ministering to me during my mother's fight with cancer. His songs illuminate hope; a hope which has come to fulfillment for him and my mother--hope of a New Birth! He is more alive now than ever! So I thank you. As my mother taught her son, thank you for teaching your son.

Hopeful in Him,
Jason Moore

I loved him without even knowing him. He seemed to have a song for everything I have experienced as a Christian over the past 5 years. When I was struggling with sin, the songs "The Love of God" and "Hold Me Jesus" were there. On Christmas morning my CD player would wake me up to the words "...You gotta get up, you gotta get up, it's Christmas morning." He didn't always write about the "spiritual", but he wrote about life of which we are body and soul as well. So, when he sung about "going to Wichita and borrowing Beaker's bike" he was sharing with us his memories and reminding us of the simplest pleasures of life that God grants us. That's what I loved about him, he didn't need to write about the cross, salvation, etc specifically, he found those things not only in the bible but in all of creation. He has helped me see God's world in a truly new and wonderful light.

Oh, when I get to heaven, after I see Jesus, I don't care about seeing David, Paul, or any of them. The second one I want to see is Rich. I can't explain the connection I have felt for this man over the years. Maybe it is because we share the same birthday, I don't know. But, now that he's gone I pray that he knows the love that I have for him. I hope he's watching me from above.

Rich, you've inspired me to songwriting, playing the piano, the guitar, and the hammer dulcimer. I know you've got better things to do in heaven than check up on a fan of yours, but somehow I pray that you will find some joy in my ministry to others in song. I aspire to be like you, a humble, godly man. As one not at home in

this world either I "hope I don't have to wait to long." May the Lord Jesus Christ come back for His pure, spotless bride and bring you with Him. I would love to play with you in the hammer dulcimer praise section in heaven. If I know you, we'll be in the back !!! I know you're not reading this, but I think they call it therapy. Thanks for listening. _

Your Old Friend
Vernon

I came across this and it seemed to help my grief: "When you remember me, it means you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. I means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.n -- Frederick Buechner

He will be often remembered.

Shari

I was first moved by Rich's music when we sang his "hymns" at Mass. Each week it seemed like at least one song was written by him. "Awesome God" became our community's favorite and when Rich performed in concert at our church this past New Year's Eve, he found it astounding that we were so overwhelmed by this most inspirational piece. I passed on a trip to California to visit my brother so I could stay in Arizona and see him in concert. I will treasure the picture I had taken with him. Like so many have said, he was truly a humble man after God's own heart. Many times during the past few days, I have cried especially when I hear one of his songs. To have been so in touch with God and so untouched by the world is remarkable. Thank you Lord for speaking to us

through this most gifted man.

Yever

Truly this was a man of few words, but timely and powerfully spoken because they were a reflection of his heart. His life still lives in his music...Praise the Lord! The lyrics "Live like you'll die tomorrow, Die knowing you'll live forever" were not just words, but a testimony of his life and a challenge to us all. His family and friends are in our prayers.

MK Wright

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Rich's music was and still is a great inspiration to me. God blessed him with immense talent. I wish I could have met him. Someday I will!

Scott

Rich was such an incredible songwriter. He was sooo ahead of his time. Rich stayed at my house VERY early in his career while singing a concert at my church in Clearwater, FL. He amazed me with his lyrics and his genuine personality.

nItns about as useless as a screen door on a submarine, faith without works baby...n Who could have ever thought of such an awesome analogy except Rich?! He made some incredible contributions to the Christian music industry during his time here on earth. But WE ALL know where he is now. He's looking down smiling on us and in peace with the Father. Someday we can ask God why it was his time came so soon, but until then his legacy

will live in my heart all of my life.

Love In Christ-
Windy Mock
16 years old

This is a song that I'm sure Rich is experiencing right now.

Just To See
By: Windy Ariel

I can't wait to see those hands
Those hands that took the nails
Just to see your humble face
The face below the crown
I can't wait to embrace you
The man who bled for me
One day I'll meet you there
Lord I can't wait..... just to see

I think of all the sacrifice
The pain that you endured
You died, but now you live again
Can't wait for what's in store

Chorus
Your love for me can not be measured
I can not comprehend
How a love like this could ever be
Unless it was sent from Him.

Chorus

I can't wait.....
Oh Lord I can not wait Just to see.

"But I see a people who've learned to walk in faith with mercy on+

h mercy and glory on our faces. Rich is with the Creator now, as all of soon will be. May we continue where Rich left off, By showing compassion and humbleness to the ones who do not deserve it. Thank you Rich for serving Jesus with whole heart and touching so many lives including mine.

James

I thank God for the ministry Rich had in my life. God worked through Rich and his music. I am so grateful for godly music that helps me meditate on God day and night and I'm so grateful that Rich is with our Lord. I chose one of Rich's songs to be played at my wedding. Then, just now, reading through the online coverage of Rich's life, I learned that my husband and I were married on Rich's birthday. What a great way to remember him!

Joan Luaces

Rich, his message and his music touched us all and left the fingerprint of Jesus. Thank you Lord for lending him to us.
Bona Marie

So shocked and saddened to hear of Rich's tragic passing. His music is near and dear in our home and he will be missed. Now he will richly bless all those who are waiting for us at heaven's gate.

A. Sterzinger

I join in many who will miss Rich and the wonderful music that God gave him. Just want you to know that I am praying for all of the family. May this corn of wheat that has fallen into the ground,

bring forth much fruit.

Jan Seeling

His music touched my life, too, and helped me to have comfort and peace in the Lord during some tough times during the last 3 years. He was a very real person -- very honest and God used that to reach so many people. I know it gave me the courage to be more honest and real with people about my struggles and more appreciative of God's unconditional love and His great mercy. My favorite song of Rich's is one I never heard him sing in concert, but I know it must have come from his heart and to me it sums up his ministry through song. It seems he wanted to share himself with us, love us, lift us up from our loneliness or discouragement and bring us God's peace....

Though we're strangers, still I love you
I love you more than your mask
And you know you have to trust this to be true
And I know that's much to ask
But lay down your fears, come and join this feast
He has called us to be here, you and me
So may peace rain down from Heaven
Like little pieces of the sky
Little keepers of the promise falling on these souls
This draught has dried
In His Blood and in His Body
In the Bread and in this Wine
Peace to you Peace of Christ to you

Thanks for leading us toward this Peace Rich....see ya soon! My prayers are with you, Rich's family and Mitch and the driver of the truck....the Lord bless you and comfort you all...

Charles Lord

Rich has revolutionized the way I see Christ in my everyday life. His down to earth songs have inspired all of us. A year ago I wrote Rich about troubles I was having with my roommates. If you can believe, Rich wrote me with his advice. I gave the letter to one of my roommates and we were able to overcome our problems.

In Christ,
Scott Kaspar

His words & lifestyle was profound to me at a critical point in my life a while back. I just miss my friend. I want to see my friend and shake his hand.

L Thao

I have always been a Christian, but only recently begun listening to Christian music on the radio. The music of Rich Mullins reflected so openly and honestly that which has always been in my heart but never was released in words. I find myself humming his songs to keep me focused on God's love as I go through my day teaching high school students. The love and strength of his words always help me remember that these kids need the Lord and they can see Him in me...I hope. Rich Mullins' songs remind me that there is nothing that cannot be accomplished if we follow Jesus' example and let God work through us...

And I think quietly that God must have a truly stunning garden because He harvests the most beautiful flowers to decorate His home. I can only imagine the joy and wonder of that vista... Thank you, Lord, for sharing enough of Rich Mullins with us to glimpse the glory of Heaven.

Vanda Baughman
Turner, OR

"Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elijah...saw him no more..." 2 Kings 2:11-12 KJV.

Second to God's love and grace, people are the greatest gifts the Father gives us. God works through others to teach us and bring us closer to Himself. Through his music and his "stories" at concerts, Rich was a spiritual mentor to me. Many others, besides myself, probably understand right now the sense of loss that Elisha felt after his mentor suddenly disappeared to be with the Father in heaven. For a long while Elisha had been learning from Elijah. Now Elisha had to go forward alone and carry out all Elijah had taught him. Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, or mantle, and soon realized the Spirit of God was with him also.

For six years I have learned much about the Father from Rich Mullins. The song "Awesome God" introduced me to Rich's music. I'm a Minister. When I first heard Rich's music, the political situation in the church I was serving was anything but pleasant. "If I stand" became something I played daily to remind me that regardless of what happened in that church, it was God who had called me to ministry. No person could shut the door on something that God wanted me to do with my life. If I fell flat on my face, His grace would be there to catch me. Through the years, nIf I Standn has reminded me that my allegiance needs always to be nto the Giver of all good thingsn who is always with me.

God speaks to me through Rich's music. Some songs have been like new glasses that help me look at God's world in a different way. Some songs send me to re-read certain scriptures which the songs have made more alive. Other songs remind me of God's presence and love during times when life is tough and I am struggling. Countless times Rich's songs have helped me focus my thoughts of Jesus when real life hit me harder than I was prepared for. Rich always succeeded in conveying hope without turning reality into a fairy tale void of trials. When my prayers hit the ceiling. When tears blurred the words on the pages of my Bible. I have often put on Rich's music to remind me that God is still near and waiting to speak to me....

Sometimes through the words of a song, even more often in the silence after the music had played. Rich often reminded us to allow it to be quiet in our world. To turn off all the TV's, movies, and music and sit down and listen for the voice of God. And when God speaks to us, he hoped we'd not think it was something else. In my life, it seemed like God always had something to say when Rich Mullins was around.

Over six years, I attended seven concerts and three Cornerstone Festivals. Rich walked around the Cornerstone Festivals and talked with everyone he met. At Cornerstone '94, I became aware of how far reaching Rich's music was. One night after a concert I spent hours talking with two new found friends about how Rich's music had touched our lives. We were three people from very different states (Florida, Texas, and Maryland). The youngest was 15, 20 years younger than myself. The youngest and myself had walked with Rich to his truck at Cornerstone '93 but never talked to each other that year, then out of 20,000 people sit next to each other at Rich's concert at Cornerstone '94. These two ladies are still my friends. They have been "angels in disguise" in my life. Calling or writing at times when only God knew I needed a smile.

Just getting to attend concerts some years was an act of God. When expenses were tight in 1995, churches paid my travel expenses to interview in three different cities hundreds of miles from my home state when Rich and the Ragamuffins were playing in those cities. My timing belt broke on the way to Creation Festival '96 in Baltimore, Maryland, one exit away from the home of one of the friends I met at Cornerstone '94.

I have recognized God's hand at work so strongly that I've often looked around during Rich's concerts and wondered what stories other people there could tell. Now, I am hearing some of those stories as I read how God has touched thousands of lives through Rich Mullins. Many now understand how Elisha felt after his mentor went to be with the Father. We must carry the mantle and go forward with what we have learned. We feel a great loss, but we are not alone.

Even now, as we grieve, we can remember these words that+ life,
reach out to Jesus and hold on tight. He's been there before and
He know what it's like. You'll find He's there".

Linda Logston
Greenville, NC

I have felt sorrow and loss all week. His music has greatly
touched me. My prayers and condolences to him and his family and
his friends.

Jack Flinsbaugh
San Jose, CA

God has called one of his children home. I look forward to
meeting him personally sometime in heaven. God is gracious for
saving him and bringing him to be with Him.

Andy

A few weeks ago, I listened to the song "Dreamed I went to
Heaven....". This came after a night of sitting & praying with
Rich's music, as I often did. I realized I didn't want to wait
until we met in heaven to say thank you to Rich. I sat down and
shared with him, through a letter, just a few moments, of many in
the past 10 years, in which God spoke to me, through his music.
And how it's amazing how the same song can minister in so many
different ways. Anyway, I thanked Rich for his ministry and the
way it had touched my life I told him I didn't want to wait for
Heaven. Well, I mailed the letter. It returned to me the
following week. Apparently, the address wasn't accurate. So, I
put it aside and planned to find a correct address. It's still
sitting on my table. It speaks as a powerful reminder not to wait

to tell someone you care about how much you love them.

I'm sorry, Rich. I know you didn't do it for the fame, money or accolades. And it meant no less to you because you didn't hear from me. But I want to take this time to publicly acknowledge the powerful messages that God used you to communicate with us. I will miss your gentle voice, the lyrics that could knock me to the floor on my knees, and the love you spread in Christ's name.

In reading Acts 20:24-38a last night, I couldn't help but read it as Rich's letter to Christians. "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace..... Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God." Much of those verses, in my opinion, are the messages that Rich would have left behind for us, and indeed he did --- in music. But the part that tore me up, "What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again."

Someday, in heaven, I will tell him face-to-face. In the meantime, I will miss the challenge to my spirit. I will miss my friend, who only held my hand, and wiped my tears, through music. I cry for his family. I cry for us. But I do not cry for him. My solace, and all of our solace, is that God said "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Sincerely,
Julie Yock

I am deeply sorry for our loss of Rich. I say ours because I too am over taken about his death. His songs have inspired me from the first time I became a Christian. Awesome God is one of my favorites. May the Good Lord give you strength to believe that he is in the good hands of our savior.

Patty

Hello,

I'm sure that I'm not the only one to say it, but Rich Mullins is one of the reasons that I am saved now. I left the church when I was 12, then one day skimming through the radio stations I heard "Awesome God" and "Creed" on KLTY in Dallas. It made me rethink my reason for living, I was going to school to be an electrical engineer because I wanted to have a lot of money, now I am an engineering technician and finishing that degree. And as soon as I finish that degree, I am going to go to seminary to be a pastor; I heard my calling. I believe that without his (Rich) music I would honestly be no closer to achieving those kind of spiritual goals than I was then. I was sad to hear of his death, but I know without a doubt he is with Our Father where he belongs. And some day we will be too. Thank God for Rich Mullins.

All God's Love,
Allen Gardner

My experience with Rich Mullin's music has been very important. While listening to his music, one cannot escape the love he has for the Lord and for those of us who would take the time to listen. I have seen many a Christian artist sellout to big time record companies yet Rich Mullins was one of those few that have stayed true to their first love, Christ. I hope that in these few weeks where so many famous people are passing on, that God is using this to show that people have their priorities in all the wrong places. More people grieve the loss of Princess Di, than the combined number for Mother Theresa, and Rich. I hope that everyone will see that disparity, and realize that God may have had a plan for taking such humble, caring, loving, true people after the death of one who was living for this world and not that of the Lord. As Rich Mullin's passes on, may his music and message continue to pass from one heart to another.

Kim

To the family and loved ones of Rich Mullins:

My wife brought me the horrifying news Sunday morning; I was in shock. I have been a "fan" of Rich's for the past 4 years. His music touched a cord deep within my soul that no one else, with the exception of the late Keith Green, had ever touched. When I listened to his music, it would catapult me to another place and time; his rich lyrics, coupled with the unusual sounds placed his music in a category all by itself.

My wife and I are deeply saddened by the loss of this dear brother and gifted musician. I remember Rich saying in an interview that music is something you do not need to live but paradoxically, something you cannot live without. Well, he is now with a heavenly chorus, singing the praises of our King!

While he no doubt had thousands of fans throughout the world, his loss must be especially felt amongst family. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and know that our prayers and thoughts are with you. May the God of comfort, whom Rich loved and sang so eloquently about, pour His mercy and grace into your lives.

Although his presence will no longer be with us, his spirit will linger on for generations to come. And his music will continue to minister to hungry hearts as long as we have breath.

Sincerely,
Michael Kaplan and family

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)

In the home-going of Rich Mullins, Christian music has lost its heart-- and my heart has lost it's music. He who was "from Him"

and "through Him" has now been taken "to Him". Like Enoch: "He walked with God; and he was not, for God took him" And though God's ways are unfathomable, my heart is restless, "with a "thousand questions and a million heartaches." So suddenly and completely does God seem to remove his prophets. Whether it be Elijah on a chariot, John the Baptist with a swift blade, Keith Green in flames of fire, or Rich Mullins, catapulted from a jeep to eternity, God plucks His prophets from his battlefield like captured pawns.

Yet "though (they are) dead, (they) still speak." These are men whom God has called to cry out to the fainthearted worshippers. As we turn to see the voices crying in the wilderness, His prophets have vanished and God remains. What a prophetic picture was the conclusion of a Rich Mullins concert: Believers, closing their eyes to Rich, worshipped God. When the chorus of voices ended, and eyes were opened, Rich was gone, and we were left with Him with whom we have to do. This Monday morning I opened my eyes -- and again, Rich was gone -- and once again I was left worshipping Him.

And now, Rich is "backstage", as we "cast up our prayers (and praises) from the gravity and stone of earth", delighted that we are singing our "praise to the Lord" and asking, "Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high?" I didn't ever really understand why he wanted to "go out like Elijah," but now, maybe I do. Next to Jesus, Rich Mullins was the most homesick man I have ever known. He realized "the Spirit was leading him somewhere beyond all this,"; yet, he "longed for his home" and his heart burned within him to "wake from earthen dreams (to) rise on spirit wings."

Indeed, often times "the wind don't blow where you want it to go," but on a timely Friday evening, the howling wind would blow exactly where Rich always dreamed it would; and I'm sure he followed gladly. He prayed, "I will reach the other side; please don't let me have to wait too long?" Perhaps, "another hour" and "another mile" were "too long" for Rich Mullins to wait, not because his heart was too weak, but because His desires to be with

Him were too strong. Many people say, "He's in a better place now". But, it seemed as though he were in a "better place", even among the living. He was "looking for the city whose architect and builder is God." To him the "other side of the world" really wasn't "so far away." He could see the other side of the world quite clearly from here.

The "winds of heaven" made a lot more sense to Him than "the stuff of earth.", and its glory shined on his face and its joy broke through in his smile. In a "never picture perfect" world, he enjoyed watching the "pictures in the sky" that "whisper(ed) of hope and shout(ed) of glory." His soul has finally been united to where his heart had long since been.

God has allowed Rich to teach me many things. He taught me to think deeply, honestly, and openly--that it's better to have a clear conscience than a crowded heart. That "it's o.k. to be lonely--as long as you're free"; that "if it sails off into the blue than (to) just let it soar, for the sky is better keeping. He gave me the courage--when I felt strangely alone--to "just let it soar." I ask myself why I miss him so much? Like many, through his songs I felt like I knew him. Yet, more than that, in his songs, I felt that he knew me. He knew (as he once wrote) that "we are all in this together, but at the same time "strangely alone." His songs were great solace to those who felt "strangely alone". He knew that "the thirsty listen(ed) and would down to the waters come." Though we were strangers, he loved us much more than our masks.

And always did he remind us of the One who knew us and loved us passionately and fully and supremely, even the Lord Jesus. On the "Elijah" remake, Rich sings "Here's my heart; take it where you will; The Jordan is waiting". Rich, the Lord has honored your request and answered your prayer. And, as the song fades, as if you believed that God would soon answer your requests to "cross through", you joyfully offer your parting farewell .."bye-bye". And reluctantly, I return it: "Bye-bye, old friend" "Farewell, my brave young companion." I will miss you eagerly.

Here's one for freedom!

Meredith

To Rich's family and friends, including Beaker, Mitch, all the Ragamuffins, and others who were blessed to know and work with Rich Mullins, our hearts and prayers are with you.

Rich's words, wit and wisdom gave voice to the thoughts in the hearts of many. To me, he was more than a poet, philosopher, singer, songwriter, and musician. He was a man unshamed to speak aloud his love of God, unafraid to share his faith.

It seems only fitting that his own words pay tribute to him.

"Show me someone who makes a difference..."

That was (and is) Rich. Yesterday, today, and the many tomorrows to come, he made a difference in people by drawing them nearer to God. He was (and is) truly one of the few good men.

"So don't hold out, don't let these chances pass you by..."

Things need to be said and done. Love needs to be shared. Don't hold out.

"None are stronger than the humble, few are weaker than the proud..."

When I saw Rich in concert in August, he was so humble, it was amazing. The thing that was the most wonderful to see was the love of Christ shining through him -- it was in the tears of joy in his eyes, and the way that his heart was in every word. He loved all of us, as He loves all of us.

"They worked to give faith hands and feet, and somehow gave it wings..."

Whenever I hear this song, I think about how wonderful and loving

his family must be. And he loved them right back. You can hear it in every word of this song. Kind of takes your breath away to think that God loves us in the same way. He teaches us, through His Word, the values which He holds highly, and then He takes a step back, so we can try our wings. And He's right there to catch us when we fall, like the good Father that He is.

"There's bound to come some tears up in your eyes That ain't nothing to be ashamed of I know there's bound to come some tears up in your eyes That ain't no reason to fear I know there's bound to come some tears up in your eyes Reach out to Jesus and hold on tight He's been there before and He knows what it's like You'll find He's there..."

As we mourn the loss of our dear brother in Christ, tears are flowing freely down our faces. But we shouldn't be ashamed, or afraid, because these tears are really a combination of our sorrow and our joy, because we know that he is Home, where we all long to be.

"And you never know who God is gonna use A princess or a baby Or maybe even you or me..."

We may not all reach as many people as Rich and his music did, but God has a plan for each and every one of us, and He put us where He wants us to be. Seize every opportunity to glorify God!

"I'd trade my pen in on a pair of wings..."

And so you have, my brother. I know you'll have a big, thick anthology of new songs when we meet up with you in Heaven. Your words down here were a guide to understanding and getting closer to the Lord. Why should we think it'll be any different up there?

"And in dying, he's born again to live..." "I believe in a life that never ends..."

Death comes only to the flesh. The spirit is alive and well and has a forwarding address: Heaven.

"Heaven is waiting, just past the horizon, Just over the mesas,
across the great divide..."

I could go on and on, but this is the bottom line. We all know
where we're going. We know the directions on how to get there,
our One Way reservations are confirmed -- we just have an open
ticket. Remember this: the most important thing you can leave
behind is a legacy of love. Love one another.

I pray that these words bring comfort to those that mourn.

Love in Christ,
Katherine

Rich Mullins was my hero long before I met him. Like thousands of
his fans, I treasured up certain lines of his songs the way you
store away all the sunsets, prayers and late-night conversations
that break through your consciousness and change you forever.
Rich seemed to have more than his share of startling, profound,
life-giving insights into the heart of God - more than even the
usual quota for prophets, poets, or saints - and they rhymed.

Naturally, I wanted to meet him, this guy who could title a song
"The Maker of Noses" and make your own nose and eyes run the first
time you heard it. In 1995 I got my chance. More than my share
of chances, actually. I was asked if I wanted to go on a three
month tour of 65 cities with Rich and Ashley Cleveland. I said
"yes".

The tour started two weeks after the release of my first record.
I was green, scared and completely unknown. I have since learned
that there is a certain hierarchy to almost all tours, an
appropriate and respectful deference to the headliner. Typically,
an opening act's sound is quieter, the lights less bright.
Everyone knows and observes these unwritten rules. Everyone
except Rich, apparently. Every night he wandered out on stage,
usually barefoot (so he wouldn't disappoint the fans who had come

to count on his shoeless-ness), to introduce me to his audience, command for me their attention, and generously ease my way into the spotlight. Every show he let me have the time of my life singing harmonies and playing guitar on all those songs of his that had made him my hero in the first place. And he seemed to have a pretty good time himself bashing away at his dulcimer when he insisted on bringing Ashley and me back out on stage during his set to let us each showcase another tune with the aid of his Ragamuffin band.

Rich didn't have much use for the "industry" code in general. He insisted upon saying what he really thought rather than what he knew people would want to hear. He refused to attempt the veneer of perfection we like to gloss over our heroes, and instead was uncomfortably frank about his frailties.

Rich was not what you'd expect in a lot of other ways, too. I had become accustomed to a vague but growing dissatisfaction in myself and among my friends with the institution of the Church. If we went, it was because we knew we should, not because we felt it was what it should be. Not Rich. He loved church. He adored the feeble, faltering praise and worship that made the rest of us cringe. He said he loved to hear men sing out of tune.

He was like that about the Bible too. While I read the Bible because of a desire for guidance and a sense of duty, Rich read it because he thought it contained the most entertaining stories in the world. Those stories made him laugh that famous Mullins laugh, sometimes they made him cry, and always they fueled the fire in his heart to know the God of Jacob and David and Elijah better.

The day I found out Rich had died I could not get the words to his song "Elijah" out of my head. I later found out that many of his friends and fans had the same lyrics spring to mind:

When I leave I wanna go out like Elijah...
And it won't break my heart to say good-bye

I found myself having sort of an argument with him: "Sure, Rich,

it's not breaking your heart to go, but what about the hearts you're leaving behind? Mine is shattered, and I know my grief cannot compare to those of your closest loved ones."

During the "Liturgy, Legacy... Ragamuffin" days Rich was asked a lot about what kind of legacy he'd like to leave behind. I wonder if he had any idea how many lives he touched, how many hearts would be broken when he said "good-bye". Maybe he had an inkling of it. Maybe that's why he left us with "Hold Me Jesus" and about 80 other songs that will take us - if we let them - to the feet of the God of peace and comfort, the God who is probably making Rich laugh that famous Mullins laugh even as I type this.

I am only beginning to discover the extent of Rich's legacy in my own life. Sometimes when I am about to make a justifiable but none the less selfish career decision I am suddenly stopped short by the image of Rich on-stage, his hair still wet from his pre-show shower, asking his fans to please listen to my songs. Sometimes when I begin to return to the Bible or to Sunday morning services with the familiarity that breeds indifference I remember his passion for the things of God. I am undeniably better for having known him.

Rich Mullins was as human as they come. But he was what one writer has called a "living mystery" - he lived in such a way that his life would not make sense if God did not exist. May his songs and his memory be a legacy that gives us all the courage to follow his example.

- Carolyn Arends

Dear Ma'am,

I know that you will not have time to read all the mail which you are sure to get, in memory of your son, so I will make this brief. However, I wanted to let you know how much your Rich's music has effected the lives of those in our youthgroup, here in Colorado

Springs. Rich was one of those rare people of whom you could say, without hesitation, "He was my friend", even though you never met him. He was a friend to each one of us, and a friend who taught us to look at the world in a different way than we had, before. He has enriched our lives with his songs and with the beauty of the insight which he gave.

The thing about rich was the purity of his music. He wrote as one who could look at life through the eyes of a child, a stranger, and the Creator, all at once. There was a simplicity about his words that spoke a kind of poetry which no other writer has ever penned. He gave us a look at God that we would not otherwise have had.

I am particularly fond of the songs "Growing Young" and "Jacob And Two Women". Growing Young really means a lot to me, as a former prodigal son, turned minister. The lyrics are among the most beautiful ever written. And, as far as "Jacob and Two Women" goes, no one but Rich could have summed up the history of the nation of Israel in such a way that painted a picture in our hearts and minds, as though we were seeing it through the simplicity of God's eyes--a picture that I will always carry with me (and view, whenever I close my eyes and think of Rich).

We feel your loss and want you to know that we are presently mourning with you. Rich taught us so much about life. You will never know the number of the hearts of those who never knew him but called him "friend". The world has lost one of the greatest lyricists with whom it has ever been blessed by God. But he has left us a legacy of dreams and insight that have inspired us to see the invisible things which can only be seen with the hearts, and to reach for the intangible things of that heavenly realm, God's perfect gifts to those who seek Him in the simplicity of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord comfort you in this time of sadness and bless you with the knowledge that the music of Rich Mullins will be felt in the hearts of men, women, and children, for generations yet to come. Our radio station played a tribute to Rich, last night, ending with "Hold Me Jesus". Rich got his wish. Jesus is holding

him, tonight.

Sincerely,
Your friend and servant in Christ,
Jacob Doran,
Outreach minister,
Colorado Springs, CO

I have just this week heard of the death of my favorite Christian Musician - Rich Mullins and wanted to share with someone how his music and message have affected me here in Australia.

When visiting America in 1989, I attended a concert at a Church near Disneyland -Melodyland I think it was called. That's when I first heard him. Congregations and choirs all around Australia were singing Awesome God. Wow ! I was a fan from that moment. I bought his albums (cassettes then) and fell in love with his style. I loved the way he could express his faith in a way I hadn't heard anyone do so before.

I eagerly awaited new releases. In the meantime I started to realise that other stand-out songs from other artists were also written by Rich. I had the privilege of meeting Rich in 1994 at the National Youth Workers Convention in San Diego. I had a photograph taken with him that I still proudly have on the wall next to my desk.

I have shared his albums with anyone who was prepared to listen to them and "converted" many people to his music. We talk about what certain songs mean to us. I have quoted his songs in sermons, quoted his Release articles in messages, always amazed at the way he can bring across his faith in a way no one else could.

One of my favorite songs is the Maker on Noses. I asked him what was the inspiration behind the song - what flash of brilliance led him to write it. He told me that there was one day left in the studio and the record company told him that he needed another song

! To me that says God uses ordinary people in ordinary circumstances from ordinary places and he works through them to do EXTRAORDINARY things. Rich Mullins did that for me. His words helped me crystalize aspects of faith. His songs helped me go a little higher and a little further and a little deeper.

An ordinary boy from Indiana U.S.A helped an ordinary boy from Ipswich Australia. Maybe he didn't go out like Elijah. He probably lived like he would die tomorrow. He died knowing he'll live forever. And he inspires me to do the same.

Darryl Seip

As Irving Berlin said, The song is finished but the melody lingers on.

For me Rich Mullins was a poet and a prophet who called me back to God time and time again. His lyrics and melodies spoke to my soul the words God needed for me to hear. Sometimes soothing, sometimes stirring. I grieve for the loss that is in our world now he has left us. Keith Green, Mark Heard, now Rich Mullins - those who are here for such a short time leave us a valuable legacy of challenge and inspiration. But we would rather have them back!

I am so sorry for the pain and sorrow his family and friends will be going through now. He was a true son of God in this dark and scary world. Allow God to comfort you. Trust Him to work in your life even as you go through this terrible pain. He will work in the way that is right for you, even if it is different from how others grieve. What you feel now is normal, what is not normal is what has happened to the one you loved.

We long for something more than this and rest on the promise that one day our pain and suffering will be less than a distant memory, and we will be with our Lord, as Rich is. God knows we long for something far better than this world. But, until we reach that place, He will journey with us as He journeyed with Rich.

God's strength... for the journey.

Christina Tyson

Perth, Western Australia.

I wanted to extend my deepest sympathy to Rich's family. I am an amateur Christian singer and Rich Mullins was one of my biggest inspirations. I had the opportunity to see him when I was in college and had never heard his music before. I turned it down. I heard his music shortly after that and have been touched by the spirit of it ever since. I regret never having seen him in concert. I do know that the heavenly choirs will sound even more beautiful with him there.

In deepest sympathy

Mark Price

I'm an AWANA leader for 5th and 6th grade girls. One of our favorite songs is "Our God is an AWESOME God" We have sign actions and everything. Not very many people, over the passage of time, know where that song came from. And what little I know of Rich, I know he would have been very pleased that the focus was on the Praise of our Lord, and not on the author of the song. As the dj on light99 has expressed, "It's funny how I've come to appreciate his songs even more, now." I regret not ever getting to a concert. But my appreciation of his craft, of the hammer dulcimer, which he used in the best way I've ever heard, of his life, of three days of a slow drizzle and/or rain, has all been an expression of praise for me this week. "When I die I want to go out like Elijah" has ran through my head all week and that wasn't even my favorite song of his! All I can say is, "Thank you Lord, for allowing us to experience this man." He has helped us find a deeper relationship with the Father. To close I want to quote a couple of lines from the little booklet I purchased a couple of years ago from Rich Mullins. "I don't know if God wept at Moses'

funeral. I don't know if He cried when he killed the first of His creatures to take its skins to clothe this man's earliest ancestors. I don't know who will bury me----"

We who love you, Rich.

Charlotte Lattimer

Sterling College

Sterling, Ks.

In his own words...

"And now the night is fading
The storm is through
And everything you sent to shake me
From my dreams they come to wake me
In the love I find in you
And now the morning comes
And everything that really matters
Become the wings
You send to gather me
To my home
To my home
I'm going home"

He's Home.

Susan Lessley

I am so sad to hear about your son's death. I have just recently discovered his music and I could really hear God through his songs. I am especially touched by the way his music touches my children. My 5 year old daughter and 7 year old son love to sing along with his CD and much of their image of God has been painted by Rich's words.

I know that your heart must be broken right now, but I hope that it is some consolation to you that your son has touched so many

lives. And we all await the day when we can join him in heaven and sing "Our God is an Awesome God."

God bless you,
Sherill

This is one of those times when we realize how inadequate words really are. I feel that I am writing the letter that I always intended to write to Rich. How sad when we let time slip away... Rich is the only artist I've really ever followed, so to speak. I own all of his tapes on CD and most on tape as well, I went to all of his area concerts, and read his Release articles. My daughters and I have such wonderful memories of his concerts - going to bookstores, amusement parks, and churches, just to hear him perform the music we listened to day after day. His music was always a source of comfort, conviction and inspiration. With every new release, I had a new favorite song. The christian family has suffered a tremendous loss and we will miss you terribly Rich. In our time of mourning these lyrics come to me again and again - "If I stand, let me stand on the promise that you will pull me through And if I can't, let me fall on the grace that first brought me to you If I sing, let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs But if I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his home."

The Bessent Family

Rich's impact on me and those around me was tremendous during his life. Now as his life in Christ continues, his music takes on an increasing significance as I imagine him singing them from heaven. The lyrics and music are truly more powerful than ever now. I'm thankful for the life and ministry of this godly man. As much as I will miss him, I am glad that he is with the Lord now.

Jennifer Pearson

As I readied my self to lead music worship (I was simply filling in for our vacationing director) it was about 6 am.... I had the local CCM station on WFRN and I heard the news break. I cried... my wife and I were lucky enough to have been "backstage greeters" at 2 different concerts here in South Bend, Indiana. We were able to talk to Rich in a very relaxed conversation. That was just Rich... relaxed with other people... and I felt like I'd seen inside his heart.

It's different to hear of someone passing when you really don't know them.... but having talked to Rich.... having felt his REAL love of the Father.... what a sadness it is. It does give me more of a sense of "time is runnin' out" with my own music ministry... we HAVE to reach as many as we can. And Rich reach so many.

I've been changed by his music.... but, moreover, I've been changed by his spirit and his ministry.... and I'll be eternally grateful.

God bless your family and friends, Rich...and may God keep you in the palm of His hand....always.

"small paul" <:}}}}}}}><\

I sit here listening to the radio going through Rich's songs as a tribute to his life. Listening to his songs is sort of like listening to God speak directly to me. They have touched me and I am thankful for each and every one. It is funny sometimes how we hear sad news and how it effects us. I was sitting in a Geoff Moore and the Distance concert Saturday night (9/20). We had just got done praying and Geoff asked us to sing a song that wasn't his - it was Awesome God. We were singing our hearts out in joy. We had just got done singing it for the second time when he told us the news of Rich's passing. I immediately began to cry. I guess

more out of shock. The hardest thing was Sunday morning telling my church friends that a great Christian musician and friend had died. No matter our loss, it truly is heaven's gain.

God Bless you Rich and see you in Heaven!!!
Susan Barto

Although we never met him, his music changed our lives. More than any other musician, Rich had a way of making Jesus real. Rich lived the life he claimed he had. We shall surely miss him.

Bill & April Gilligan
- "Hold Me Jesus, I'm shaking like a leaf."

I only "discovered" Rich in the last year, but his music has had a powerful impact on my Christian walk. He had a way of hitting me right between the eyes with the truth, and it made me very uncomfortable in my complacency. The greatest thing, though, was the grin attached to that "truth between the eyes". That's what gave me the encouragement to get up out of my comfortable place and live what I believe. Our loss is heaven's gain. Can your imagine the rockin' going on up there?!

Randy Reek

I saw Rich in concert two times. Two of the most profound times of worship in my life. Above all, it was his sincerity and authenticity that appealed to me. What you saw was what you got, bare feet and all.

Of course, his music was great, and kept getting better. It wasn't until I entered the ministry that I realized that Fanny Crosby, not Rich, wrote "All the Way My Savior Leads Me." It is

these words, of the last verse, that I wish to remember him by at this time.

All the way my Savior leads me;
Oh the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest in me is promised,
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothe immortal,
Wings it's flight to realms of day,
This my song thro' endless ages;
Jesus led me all the way.
This my song thro' endless ages;
Jesus led me all the way.

I rejoice that Rich is now in that perfect peace. May God grant us that peace as we pick up the pieces and move on.

-- Grace & peace,
Chris Moellering
Huntington, Indiana

Rich was a wonderful person, a true Gift to the world from God. While I did not know Rich very well, I had had the opportunity on more than one occasion to visit with him. He was a student teacher at my son's school and Keith (my son) loved him. When I told Keith about the accident, he was very sad and said he would miss him. But, in true form, my ever compassionate son was concerned how his former music teacher would be handling the death of a friend. I used to work at Friends University, so I knew Rich from there, also. In addition, a couple of friends of ours, Chuck Haukos and Jimmy Fletcher, were close friends of Rich.

Even though Rich is no longer with us, at least he left us the legacy of his music, which will live on in the hearts of many for years to come.

May God bless you and sustain you in your time of need.
Teresa Williams

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your son. I met Rich while at Milligan College. My memory of him is that he was someone who had God's own heart and love. Having seen Rich in concert many times since then, I have always appreciated his music for its ability to draw my closer to God. His music made me think about my own walk with Christ and constantly challenged me. Thank you for raising a boy who loved Jesus and grew to be a man of God. I pray that my son will show that same love for God and for others as he grows.

In Christ,
David White
Castle Hills Christian Church
San Antonio, TX

I was so sorry to hear of Rich Mullins death. My first reaction was to say "why". I realized this is a selfish thought. He is now with our Father. Rich made us so happy with his music, now he is happier than he ever could be here and he deserves to get back the happiness that he gave all of us. Just think, some day we will see him again. I like to think of friends and family that have left us as they are on a well deserved vacation and when it is time, we will get to join them. My prayers are with his family. We all loved him. I am grateful for the time, though short, that we had with him.

Patti Trostle

From the moment I received a free Reunion sampler cassette tape at the Memphis stop of the Michael W. Smith's "Go West Young Man" tour, and I heard the promo for Rich's "The World As Best As I Remember It," I knew that this man was God's.

When I first heard that Rich was home, it didn't sink in. I didn't believe it. I found out from a blurb on the AP newswire at the local public radio station that I work part-time at that what I so wanted to deny was in fact truth. This is my 5th year of college, and there is not one living person on the earth that has helped me see Jesus more than Rich Mullins.

As I tried to fall asleep to "Songs" last night, I thought of the one concert of his that I had gone to. Nothing fancy. A local youth minister brought the Brother's Keeper tour to Jonesboro High School's gymnasium. I helped set up the stage in exchange for a ticket. I sat on the front row as Rich told me what it was like for the Native American people. He had a cold, or the flu, or something, but sometimes his voice would crack as he strained, and it made it all the more sincere. Here was a man after God's own heart. A man that could set off thousands of tiny fires inside my soul about what God is all about, and what it means to live a life fit for Him alone.

My friend Chris called me last night to ask if it was true. I had to confirm it. She told me of that same night, when after the concert she met Rich, and he signed her book, simply-- "Be God's...Rich."

Therefore, I write to you now.
Be God's,
Terry Johnston

A friend on my dorm floor at Iowa State introduced me to Rich's music back in 1986. His tunes were different and catchy at a time when Christian music was just beginning to grow. I bought both his debut album and "Pictures in the Sky" on vinyl one day, and his music has been my favorite ever since.

I've told countless people, believers and unbelievers alike, how much I enjoyed his ability to paint a picture for you with words. His songs take you from the banks of the Cumberland River, to the

Great Plains; from the decadence and greed in our country, to the glory of God's creation singing out. He told us about growing up in his family, his relationships, and his dream of the kingdom to come. He championed truth and took a stand against the lies of humanism and evolution. He encouraged the saints to stand firm, to believe and to grow up in the faith; yet he wasn't ashamed to tell of his struggles and ask Jesus to hold him.

And so Jesus is holding him now.

To God: Thanks God, for letting Rich sing and write all the songs he did for us. I'm looking forward to hearing his next album in Heaven! It was a pleasure to have met him at a couple of concerts. Thanks for touching my life time after time, through this brother.

To Rich's family and friends: Thanks for sharing him with the world and for giving him a real life to write and sing about.

To Rich: Thanks. Peace, brother. See you when it's time.

Ed Lovetinsky

Rich Mullins enriched my faith and worship with his lyrical mastery and musical genius. When I heard that he died, I drove straight home, put on his CD and cried.

Rich, I'm going to miss you bro! But I know that your probably up with their with the angels worshipping God...which is what you devoted your life to.

Leilani Haywood,
Columbia, MO.

The world truly lost a great, humble, Godly man last Friday.

However, we can all find comfort in the FACT that Rich Mullins is resting peacefully in the arms of his Savior. Even a man like Rich is left without a word to say (as he so rarely found himself while on earth) at the glory he sees now. Perhaps he'll just sit there for 100,000 years looking at the glory before him and just say, "wow!" Then, he'll spend all eternity singing praises to the God who created him to minister to so many. And he'll take request from Jesus. I know Rich is having a great time. And I know God is soooooooooo happy to have this precious child at home. Finally. We'll miss you Rich, but the Heavens are rejoicing to welcome you into your new home. May your life be a testimony to the love, peace, grace, and power found only in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

We'll miss you!
Todd Wyrick
Youth Minister,
Lubbock, TX

I can think of better ways to passing on to glory. Why do the good always seem to die young? Will miss his message in song greatly. One of the songs that I love the most is My God is An Awesome God. What a powerful praise song. Condolences and best wishes to his family.

Thank you Lord for your promise in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Dan & Sharon Baptista

Rich brought the presence of the Holy Spirit many times in my life while playing his music. I'm reminded of the time my friend and I were witnessing to some youth in our neighborhood and they liked the tape so much they stole it! We chalked it up to evangelism.

Peace.....not as the world gives
Tim Jennings
Rochelle, IL

I just want to express to you, Rich's family and friends, how sorry and saddened I was to hear about Rich's accident. I am praying for you all to be comforted by God and for the full recovery of Mitch.

Rich is my all time favorite singer and songwriter and has been for many years. What always struck me about his music was the poetry of it, and how he could capture such profound truths in a simple phrase. When I listened I felt like he was speaking right to me in a language I could understand, and speaking refreshing, hope-giving truth, truth that encouraged me through difficult times and definitely encouraged me in pursuing my relationship with God. He comforted and convicted and encouraged at the same time. I got to see him in concert once at Footloose in Dallas/Fort Worth in 1989 and I always wanted to see him again. I am feeling sad for those of us who are left behind and missing him, but very happy for Rich because what he desired most in this life has finally happened - he has met Jesus in the sky and now is beholding the face of Love!

Melissa M. Nelson
Vacaville, CA

I am really sorry to hear of Rich Mullins' passing. Sometimes we do not understand why things like this happen. We now look through a glass darkly, but someday we will see and know, when we see Christ face to face.

We shall also see Rich again, when we join him at his new home!
Kurt W.

I am sorry to hear of the loss of one who held the faith and

proclaimed it in word and action. We know we will see him on that day when Christ returns for His church.

Jana

Rich Mullins was a great artist! His love for Christ in his music has inspired me in the past year. His version of "Sing Your Praise To the Lord" was the most inspirational to me because when I was going through some tough times at home. There was something in that song that made me think about praising God. I feel that I am a born again Christian because of that song, I cry every time I hear it because it means so much to me.

Another song of his that ministers to me is "Sometimes Step by Step". His lost was a great one, but, he is Home where God wanted him to be. May his music live on forever!

Jason Ball

I have to say that I really didn't understand worship until I went to one of Rich's concerts. It wasn't just a concert for entertaining, but a concert of worship and insight to my personal walk with the Lord. I recognize that Rich's family and friends are hurting over their loss, but I'm sure that Rich is still being used by God even as we speak.

My favorite concert of Rich's was at SMU's McFarland Auditorium in Dallas, Texas. Knowing Rich Mullins from our "younger" high school days in Richmond, Indiana... knowing the great difficulty he had being unable to fit in with the "future Farmers" and the "Mr. Basketballs" at school... it was a warm, peaceful feeling to see him on stage, barefoot, torn jeans, sharing his unique, beautiful talent with the world. He'd made it... doing what he loved... in his own way.

Lisa

Just a short note from two fans in N.Ireland. We only heard the news on the 24 & 25 Sept and to say it was a shock is something of an understatement. We were looking forward to seeing Rich at Greenbelt earlier this year.

Our deepest sympathy to the whole family circle and a prayer that Mitch's recovery is a speedy one.

Our God is an awesome God.
The Prog Family

I first really listened to Rich about 4 years ago when I was struggling with trying to figure out what God was doing with me and my family. I was being forced out of a job and I didn't understand it. I got "Liturgy, Legacy..." and listened to it about a thousand times. God changed my life through Rich's music. I've never, ever been impacted so tremendously by someone I never met, although I feel like I knew Rich well. This past summer in Lubbock, I got to see Rich in concert for the first time, with Mitch. It was one of the highlights of my Christian life. I'm so thankful for him. I'm sad, but I can just imagine Rich walking around heaven, meeting people he's sung about for years, barefoot, old jeans, t-shirt...talking to Elijah, Abraham, Moses, Paul. Can you imagine how incredible happy he is?

Thank you Rich. Thank you Jesus.
Tom Copeland

His music has always been an inspiration. His voice and song writing talents will be missed. But , Praise the Lord for the time that we were blessed with Rich's presence. In live and in death, this man made a difference. In spite of his tragic death, I rejoice in knowing that he is now "Singing Praise to the Lord"

in person. To his family our sympathy but also our thanks for sharing this unique treasure with the rest of us.

Kathy

I first heard Rich's music when I listened to Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth. I have since tried to collect all of Rich's musical projects. I am the type of person who gets VERY emotionally charged over a good song, and I'm here to tell you, Rich has given me goosebumps, made me feel like I was the wind blowing across the prairie, put me spiritually on my knees, and made me want to reach for his Awesome God many times over. His music has touched my family and I deeply. My children still want me to play "Awesome God" every time I turn on the stereo. My wife (who listens to music, but doesn't absorb it like I tend to) told me several times that his lyrics seemed to make her feel as if she should be on her knees in prayer.

I sometimes feel that Rich may have known his end was near, and was trying to help us understand that he may be gone from this earth, but he is now basking in the glory of God the Almighty, and that we need to focus not on Rich's passing, but rather where he was passing to. And IN that passing there is great joy. I am deeply saddened by his death, but strangely, I weep for the feelings of loss I know his family feels, I weep for the music he had in him that we will never hear, but I cannot weep because he is dead. After all, what is death but the beginning of our eternal life with Him? I am joyous that Rich is where he always knew he belonged.

"When I go, I wanna go out like Elijah..." You did my friend. And we will miss you until we can one day be with you, and thanks to your lessons and music, we WILL be with you to thank you personally some day.

The Young's

Rich was simply the best. No other Christian artist has made the impact on my life as has Rich Mullins. He will be missed more than I can put into words, but I know I will see him again. Thank you Rich.

--Greg Fielder

I was so upset at the hearing of Rich's death. My husband, Dean, introduced me to his music in college and I instantly became a great fan. His death, Princess Di's and Mother Teresa's has forced the rest of us to get up and do things for others. Rich seemed to be a "do-er" and I hope people will learn to say that about me.

With prayer,
Ada Miracle

I got a chance to go to one of Rich's concerts here in Wichita in January at Century II. My sister-in-law is probably one of the biggest fans of Rich's I know. I was the one who broke the news to her, and she cried so hard that we had to break our conversation. I think she put it best when she said that she was basically sad for herself and being a little selfish, because she knew that Rich was home now. His music will live on in us forever.

We love you Rich,
Janice Franklin

I guess we just have to give ourselves time to heal. I was talking to someone last night about his death, she hadn't heard yet, and she started crying and she remembered that she had heard a prophecy for what 1997 would hold for God's people. One of them was that He was going to call home some of his most precious

saints. That helped me to know that God really did want him home! I had some light-hearted thoughts this week about Rich's passing. One was "Well the Lord must've been running out of room in heaven between Rich and Mother Theresa's rewards being stored up there, so He went ahead and took them home so there'd be enough room for the rewards for the rest of us!" Kinda corny I know, but it helped me to lighten up anyway! Well I hope these poems comfort you and others who read them. Rich had a very profound impact on my life, mainly that my talent the Lord gave me in poetry and music laid dormant for over 20 years. I have been a rich fan for 10 years and over the last 3 the Lord has really used his music to call those withered things in me back to life. God gave me the talent, then used Rich to bring it out, so I will give God the glory and Rich the honor, do you think he'd mind? I love you Rich, cant wait to see you soon!

Love your friend,
Tammy Pettit

My sister and I interviewed Rich in Columbus, Ohio. We appreciated his inspirational songs and Christian dedication to the Lord.

With deepest sympathy.
Bob & Tina Peterson

I'm sorry to hear that one of my Christians brothers has died. May the Lord be with his family and may all remember that he is NOT in heaven but awaits judgement in his just like the rest of us alive. God brings laughter in sorrow and hope for tomorrow. He's my peace in the midst of storm.
Janelle

I am so shocked. As one as his fans it is really hard to except

his death. But we all got to face it knowing he is in a better place...with God! We are losing the most precious people of the world. Princess Diana, Mother Teresa, now Rich Mullins! We will always remember him.

thoughts are with all of his family, Danae Meers
P.S.: He was a good man!

The reason Rich's death has touched me so deeply is because I did meet him and talk to him. I know lots of people who love the Lord and love to serve him but, Rich did more than that. He radiated God's love. The few times I saw him, there was always a bright glow that encircled around him like no one else. I think that's why so many people were drawn to him. They could see God's love shining through him. Maybe not with their eyes, but with their hearts. God used him to spread the love of Jesus. And, as Rich has said before, "It's good to be used". I can not weep for Rich's death because I'm glad that he's finally with the Lord, but I do weep for those he left behind. And I pray for you everyday. Especially his family and closest friends. And a special prayer goes out to Mitch and the truck driver, may God give you healing and peace. Thank you God for giving us Rich and his wonderful gift.

Sarah Brinkle

I only met Rich once. It was last year in Arkansas. I am a domestic brother in a religious community founded by John Michael Talbot - the Brothers and Sisters of Charity and also a musician.

We were gathering for the first meeting of C.A.M. (the Catholic Association of Musicians) and Richie was invited to John Michael's hermitage by a mutual friend - Stephen Connolly (co manager of Kathy Troccoli at that time). Stephen introduced us. He (Rich) was such a gentle, humble spirit. Later that evening we had a

concert in Eureka Springs AK. Richie sat in the back - was unshaven of course - and smiled throughout! He filled all with peace and joy that night without doing anything!

He is where we all want to be. May Christ give his family, friends peace and knowledge of His resurrection.

Your little brother in Jesus,
Mike Zabrocki,
Woodhaven, NY

Just some ramblings as I listen to some of his songs, and mourn his passing:

So did it break your heart to say goodbye?
Are we forgiven that ours broke
And spilled the steaming blood-red tears
That smoldered in our eyes?

And though we hold on to our One Thing
The music of your soul
Was all too often the one thing
That gave us courage to hold on.

You were our friend though we you never knew
And did not have a chance to be just friendly
Your music twisted round our souls
and by it we reached out to Jesus

And so tonight sorrow is my ocean
And the fury of the Love
Breathes through my soul and cries
as now the door lies open in your sky
Kevin Swanson

Dear Jesus, wrap your loving arms around Rich's family and

friends, comfort them. Lord, I pray for Mitch that you would put your loving healing hand on his body and heart. Thank you, Lord. I am so sad about Rich's death even though I know he's home with Jesus.

Laurie Lawson

September 22, 1997

To the Family and Friends of Rich Mullins;

We attended Rich's final concert in Crystal Lake, Illinois on August 16, 1997. God used Rich to reach us in a very special way, and changed our lives forever. We want to tell you that story.

We had been having extreme difficulties with our family. One day, after prayer and fasting, I (Chris) received a message from God - and it was the words to "Step by Step" or "Sometimes by Step." I told my husband (John) that I needed to hear that song right away for a further understanding of that message, but we could not find it on any tape or CD we had. John played "Awesome God" for me in its place.

We then got into the car to go to church. Within moments we heard WCFL (104.7 FM out of Morris, IL) play an announcement for Rich's concert on August 16th at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Crystal Lake, IL. The song that led into the concert announcement was "Sometimes by Step." I told John that we had to be at that concert because that is where God would give us the answer to our prayers.

We went to Rich's concert and it was the best concert that either of us have attended. It was small, personal and filled with the Spirit. It was so exciting to see Rich at the back of the room before the concert began. Rich then sat down next to John while Mitch McVicker sang. At John's urging I leaned over, said hello, and Rich gave me an autograph. He was so gentle and kind.

Rich and his accompanying musicians' inspired singing, dulcimer

playing and praise of the Lord was evidence that God truly was with us that night. It was a stormy night and as the lightning flashed through the windows behind the stage, it added intensity to Rich's songs, such as "Calling Out Your Name." Such haunting, beautiful intensity and passion.

Towards, the end of the concert, I told God that I had not yet heard His message, but that I was listening and ready. Then Rich stopped the music, stood by his keyboard and with closed eyes, he began to minister to all of us. What he said was my answer from God --- and in a prophetic way was also his answer as to the change he was about to face. He talked about this being his last concert after the four month tour. He said that we should not be afraid to face change and as one door closes another opens. He talked about the courage to face new things in our lives with God as our guide. He then followed this with "Sometimes by Step" and then "Creed." It was then, without a single doubt, we knew that God had spoken our answer through Rich.

We needed an answer about a very large change for me (Chris) as to whether or not to leave where I work as a solution for the family problems. Our answer from God, and through Rich, as "yes." After the concert, we stayed behind to let him know about how we were led to the concert and the message that he delivered to us. He seemed pleased to know that he was able to bring this message to us. He signed an autograph for our daughter, Janina. He wrote "Janina, be God's."

The impact of this message is one that we wish he could have known. It will bring us into Romania to help the people there. Our daughter Janina, is from Orphanage #1 in Bucharest. Chris has wanted to return there and bring something to the country and its people for the gift of our precious little one. By leaving her current position, God has allowed this to occur. On November 1st, Chris will leave for Romania to return the love and God's blessing to the country that gave us our precious daughter.

It is important for you to know that Rich's goodwill and love of children lives on. This time through the orphans and poor children of Romania. If there is anything we can ever do to relay

this testimony or to carry on with one of Rich's works, please let us know.

A door opens and we go through Step by Step. Rich's music changed our lives and we will step out to follow his example and change the world.

May God Bless you as He has blessed us through Rich's music.

With all our love,
John and Christine Van Horn
Plainfield, IL

Dear Mullins Family:

I would like to tell you about the impact Rich had in my wife and I. You see, we were saved about 4 years ago, by the grace of GOD and the constant "Jesus" walk-of-life one of our friends. After many months of learning about GOD, we became born again Christians. I love music, and I had a very hard time trying to find music that promoted GOD and HIS principles. This friend of ours gave us a Rich Mullins tape to borrow, and I have to tell you, that tape really opened my eyes to a different world. Rich's message and music were something that my wife were looking for, and finally found. This friend on ours who gave us the tape was able to attend a Rich Mullins' concert last April in St. Louis, and her fiancée was able to get Rich's attention on the ticket line. Rich came up to him and he asked if he would call his fiancée's name over the microphone and ask her to marry him. Rich did it, no problem, he said. That personal touch and attention he gave to complete strangers touched me.

Rich Mullins was a Christian, he showed the world that you can achieve what GOD wants you to achieve and still be simple in your ways, with the knowledge that whatever you have and do is because of GOD's love for you. I am sad as you are, but I also know that right now Rich is in heaven, with the psalmist David, singing

majestic songs to his very best friend JESUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alex Greene

To The Mullins Family,

I never met Rich, and I think I attended one of his concerts, but I do have some of his music. I was shocked when I heard about his death on Tuesday Morning. He had an incredible impact on my life. He was responsible for much of my early growth as a Christian. When I heard of his death I thought, where's God's mercy and then God showed me that God was merciful enough to bless many thousands of lives with the gifts that Rich possessed. Rich had the ability to reach into the heart of the hurting and in his own words, ('m sure inspired by the Holy Spirit) help those see God's mercy, love, grace and the hope we all have in Christ. I also Believed that God showed me that he was merciful by taking Rich from us. as opposed to allowing permanent damage to this man of God. I will probably never meet you, except maybe in Heaven, I can't tell you that I understand how you are feeling, because that is not possible. But I can tell you that Rich made an impact and a significant difference in the lives of many and I know that as I and others continue to hear his music, his legacy of love for Christ will continue to eternity.. I am praying for you and for Mitch and his family. I am not sure of his condition but I heard it was critical. I pray that God chooses to have mercy on mitch and his family. May God chose to place His merciful hand on you during this time and from this day on.....

His Peace

Diane Warterian

Dear Rich

I want you to know how your life has so deeply affected mine. I see in your life, an empty vessel that God filled and used, I see

a love for God and a sense of the true reality of heaven accompanied by an overwhelming longing to be there. I have seen Christ. And because you gave your life to see His praise, my cup has been filled to the point of overflowing...I have seen in you the true joy that can only come from completely serving Him. Because, through Christ you have touched me...I will in turn touch countless others, and I am only one of many.

Thank you for your life...
I know that I'll see you soon...
Glen Moore

Rich seemed to love God with the most child-like faith. He encouraged me daily with his incredible talents, and he still will.
Annie

How can my mere words say what I'm feeling. The reality that there will be no more of Rich's songs forthcoming brings me to tears. He embodied what a Christian brother should be. While so many of us miss the mark, Rich was a beacon for those of us who are poor reflections of the Christ. Man, I know all my feelings are selfish, I really will miss him. I don't apologize for that.

His music met me in places that no other did. "The Color Green" totally blows my mind. What words pictures! I can barely listen to him right now. I don't know if I should go ahead and cry it all out or wait and give myself time to deal with his departure before I listen again. It hurts more than it should. I know he's where he wanted to be. He is walking with Jesus right now. I will one day hear him sing again. Alas, good job thou good and faithful servant... I can almost hear the Father say!
Lisa

i feel fortunate that i was able to hear his music, his stories, and his message live once. I wish it had been many times. I wish i would have known him personally - his lyrics are so touching to me that i know he would have been a wonderful friend. I pray for all of you who are missing his presence in your life. I will miss the music that was yet to come but hold on dearly to that which we were given. God must have needed another angel...

Lisa Dianne

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I weep with you at the loss of your son. His music influenced the world and impacted my life, for music touches the soul in a way that nothing else can. Rejoice in knowing that today he sings with the angels.

May God bless you during this time of releasing back to the Lord, a gift that was placed in your hands for a brief time.

May God hold you close in His loving arms,
Deb Potter

When I first heard a song by Rich that talked about Noah or someone being "three sheets to the wind", I thought who is this wacko!... but the more I listened, the more I liked him. The girl who introduced me to his music wanted me to figure out his music so she could sing it during that evening's church service... but I couldn't get it ready in time, because the music was too complex! When I'm tooling down the highway, I love to pop in "While the Nations Rage" and belt it out at the top of my lungs... It will really be something to hear what he writes in the kingdom!

Praise God for his servant Rich Mullins.
Alex

We were blessed by his commitment to be faithful to his gift and share it. Thanks Rich !!

Rich's life has touched so many of us! He was truly an example of a godly man. And, he left us a pattern to follow... "Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise You! I will meet You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways, and step by step You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days."

Thanks, Rich
Debra Wagenecht

Words cannot express the heartfelt sympathy my family extends to the family of Rich Mullins. His words and songs touched the lives of so many people, each in a different way. Rich had so much to say and is truly gone too soon. He will be missed by all of us who loved him and appreciated his many talents. Our only comfort and joy is knowing that Rich is where he longed to be, with his Father.

Jim and Sharon Aldrich
Wichita, Kansas

The news of Rich Mullins' death made my morning a little more somber experience. I was instantly reminded of the brevity of life on this Earth in addition to being greatly saddened.

Mullins' songs had challenged and encouraged me greatly over the years. He reminded me to "live right," that there was "bound to come some trouble," but our "awesome God" was there to hold me in His love.

When reflecting further on his death I realized that my grief about his passing was more selfish than honest mourning in a fallen world that we see through a glass darkly. I thought MORE about what songs he would not get to write for me to enjoy. But, do I need someone else's words to help me sing my praise to the Lord, or remind me that I am not as strong as I think I am?

The answer is no and yes! Yes, there is nothing wrong with having the aid of others around us to make the load a little lighter. However, that assistance can become a hindrance when it becomes the primary way we get our strength. That was what had been happening to me.

So, "while the nations rage" around me. I can get "ready for storm" in my life by knowing where to stand: on His promise; or where to fall: on His grace.

My life has been made "richer" because of Mullins' music. But, I need to move past mourning for what I had lost and focus on the fact of rejoicing that he is in a better place where he can't keep himself from singing.

- William O'Flaherty

After returning from a weekend trip, I learned of the new of Rich's accident, and immediately broke down into tears. Rich's music was such an inspiration to me, and the words to his songs were had a true impact on me as I became a Christian. I saw Rich in concert many times, and was always truly touched by his message. he was a true disciple, I thank God for allowing Rich to spend his life with us, and for filling him with His love, that he may better sing his praises. i am sure that Rich is filled with joy as he sits in the arms of his Father, and it is that day when we all meet him again that we should look forward. I send my deepest condolences to Rich's family, and continue my prayers for Mitch and his family. Thank you God for such an incredible person!

God Bless all,
Barbara Campbell, 18
Miami University of Ohio

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." (1 Cor. 13:12) "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope." (1 Thess. 4:13) Prayers also for the truck driver and Mitch.

Clayton Notgrass

Hello there,

I was driving into work this past Monday morning around 4am, listening to KLOVE radio (local christian station here), as I reached the peak over Highway 17, they mentioned of the accident and the going home of Rich Mullins. I pulled over listening to the report of what happened that last friday. I felt saddened yet joyful. Sad that a wonderful and compassionate person as Rich, his music a reflection of him and his faith, was gone from this earthly place , but joyous in knowing that he has now headed home to meet his/our Father. I feel that I have lost a dear friend, tho I have never met Rich and only seen him in Concert once, several years back in Florida.

We will miss you Rich, and to your family, my sympathy during this time. My prayers of a strength to you all.

We all live for the day that we will be called to go home, Rich has fulfilled his promise to this world and the destination that God has sent him to as been reached. To go out like Elijah.., what a way to be called. The music and inspiration of God's Love

and Awesomeness of power. Rich wrote of this and is now a part of Heaven's choir.

God Bless,
Dave Pelman
Campbell, CA

God was good in giving him to us. God was good in leaving him here so long. God was good in taking him home. God is good and does all things well.

But I still cry. I still ache. I am grieving as one who has hope.

I long for Heaven and rejoice that Rich is now enjoying the wonder and beauty of God and His home.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!!

Melissa Banek

My family, my church and myself will surely miss the music of Rich Mullins. It wouldn't be uncommon for us to worship to Awesome God in church and than to joyfully sing Pictures in the Sky with my sons on the way home. Our only comfort will be in what he left us his music and his faith.

My prayers are with his family.
Sal Termini

Rich you will be missed. I remember going to a concert in Seattle on Mother's day and you told everyone they didn't need to pay. You asked in return for us to use the money to honor our mother. I was so moved by your selflessness. It was, and will be, a

witness to me. Rich, I shall miss your down to earth style. You did concerts and you worshipped the one true God.

Patrick DeLorenzo
Washington, DC

I want to share with you an amazing gift that Rich has given to my family just a few days before Christmas 1996. I was picking up a few last minute gifts for my family. And I was standing in a music store in Naples, Fl. wondering what I was going to buy when I unknowingly picked up a Rich Mullins cd. I have never bought a christian cd in my life and as I looked down and read who it was I admit that I hadn't a clue who Rich was. So the fact that I had a christian cd in my hand and the time of year that it was I decided that ok, maybe it's meant for me to buy this. So I purchased it and took it home for a present to my son. And when I showed it to my wife she said what's that for. I said I don't know but I think I was supposed to buy it. And I remember her saying why and I remember my reply was I don't know it was in my hand and besides maybe he will like it.

So Christmas day came and we opened presents and my son thanked us for all his gifts and then about mid-day he played the cd and loved it. Then mom borrowed it and played it till evening and we spent the rest of that day and weeks after letting Rich minister to us through his gift of music and lyrics. We started feeling the peace of the holy spirit and have returned to the church as committed Catholics and have regained our faith lost many years ago. I now own nine cds by Rich and for the first time have a personal relationship with my savior. I know now that God put Rich's music in my grasp and I absolutely love Rich for it.

We drove four hours in April to meet Rich in Kissimmee Fl. and listened to his music and ministry and was strengthened by it. I will forever cherish his autograph and his smile when I told him how much I appreciate him. He signed --be Gods-- and thanked me. We will miss Rich till we meet him again over the Jordan. We pray

that you are comforted knowing that Rich is with our Father in Heaven and is still with us all.

God's Peace Be With You
The Temples

I am not sure what to say except we are heart broken. Rich's music has ministered to us in immeasurable ways. When I was dating my husband I was a believer and he was not. In fact, he was a humanistic, agnostic, non practicing jew. No matter what I said or how many books I gave him, or churches I took him to...he remained unmoved. Then I gave him Rich's CD, Winds Of Heaven Stuff of Earth. The Lord used it to draw Joel to himself, and today he is a believer with a strong walk with the Lord. Rich remained our favorite recording artist, and we finally got to see him in concert this spring at Philadelphia Bible College. The concert was so moving that I wanted to write him a letter or e-mail him to tell him how much his music and his walk with the Lord has meant to us...I never did. After we heard about the accident I asked the Lord to please tell Rich for me. But maybe his family should know too. He was a fabulous and unique expression of the life of Christ. I will miss his voice until I hear it again in Heaven.

Christine and Joel Zucker

Thank you, Rich, for your beautiful, Christ-honoring life and ministry. Your music and poetic words have touched us deeply, stirred our souls, and have shown us the face of Christ more clearly than we could have seen it if you had never lived. I never knew you, but I'll miss you. You're cradled in the loving arms of the Savior and many souls will join you later because of the work you've done. Christian music now has a big Rich-shaped hole in it that no one will ever be able to fill. "...and if I weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his home..."

Tim and Julie Graf
Orange, CA

My sympathies to Rich's family on their loss. He was a great guy. I had the pleasure of meeting Rich some sixteen years ago when he came to our church camp. Dressed in worn out jeans and white shirt and no shoes seemed his trademark. He always had a fun way about himself. For the next few years he continued to come back for our week of camp. We knew then before his selling any songs he was going somewhere. He would give us mini concerts that I can still remember as special times. Not because of just his songs, but how he opened himself up and talk about what was important. To praise God with your whole self and that when its all over taking the ultimate journey and hearing God say well done my faithful servant. Then 1985 came along with recording contracts and tours and everyone else found out what we knew. WE didn't get to see him much except for concerts which we got to talk to him and see the same guy he had always been. I feel so blessed to have known Rich and can't wait to praise God with him again.

Bruce and Sue King

There is nothing that I can say that hasn't already been said about the untimely death of Rich Mullins. But I must admit that I feel deeply compelled to express my heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. I am also well aware of the prayers required for Mitch and his family--I hope he will be restored to his full capabilities soon! But in the midst of the hollowness and sadness that I feel, I must say "To God Be the Glory!" for without Him, Rich never would have touched us so deeply. Rich, you are now truly in the presence of our "Awesome God"--right where you've wanted to be for so long. You will always stand, in my mind, right up there with the talents and faithfulness of Keith Green. I love you very much--Thank you for witnessing in such a personal way to me!

Terry McMillen
Louisville, Kentucky

Rich Mullins came to Greenville, South Carolina in October of 1995. He would begin the Brothers Keeper tour in a couple of days. He had graciously agreed to come to our store and visit with our customers and all those that loved his songs. Rich took complete control of the in-store visit and when he finished, about four hours later, he told us that he hoped that we didn't mind just letting him do what he felt like doing. We all laughed and agreed that we would have had it no other way. We told Rich that of all the artist that had visited our store that he managed to create memories for everyone that attended that night. We were sure that all were there would never forget. Rich smiled and told us that was exactly what he wanted.

Thank you Rich for reminding us that we have an "awesome GOD."

"you have been King of my glory, won't you be my Prince of Peace."

We will look forward to seeing him again and our hearts are with everyone close to Rich in the days ahead.

Charles and Susan Richardson
Greer, SC

I have met Rich and spoken with him 4 times in the past 6 years. Three times after concerts, and one time a year ago. As my boyfriend (now my husband) and I were walking through the St. Louis airport I spotted him sitting, waiting to board a plane with Mitch and their instruments. We went up and introduced ourselves and I told him how very much his music and ministry had impacted my life and my 2 children's lives.

When I went through a painful divorce 3 years ago, Hold Me Jesus

was one of my theme songs. One of the first songs my 9 year old daughter learned when she was three was "My One Thing", I taught her how to point up to the sky at the Lord with her index finger as she sang, just like Rich did in the first concert I saw him in 1991. And my son, who is now 5, has always enjoyed singing "The Step Song". We would sing it every Sunday as our little family of three traveled to church.

This past July, my husband and I took our two oldest children to hear Rich and Mitch in our hometown, Kansas City. He remembered meeting us in the airport! And gave our children his signature "Be God's" autograph. What a special memory for them and us. I have shed a lot of tears this week. The hurt and sadness has lightened as I have read through these notes the past 4 days. I've enjoyed checking it often, and now it has been instrumental in my healing process. Reading how other people loved Rich has been so cathartic. It is like hearing and being a part of a eulogy. May God bless you and all his family and close friends who will feel this loss for a long time.

Courtney James

I just wanted to take the time to send you my condolences for your tragic loss. Rich was truly a wonderful musician and he had a tremendous heart for God. I can remember singing "Awesome God" when I was in youth choir. His ministry was a light to many people (including myself) and even though I never had the opportunity to meet him in person, I know that I will still miss him very much.

But we will see him again....
Marty

Rich has been such a part of my life via his music for so many years.

I remember...driving through Kansas on the way to a college friend's wedding and practically screaming "Step by Step" as Rich's voice reverberated as loudly as my car stereo would allow. I remember...doing youth work and feeling that "What Susan Said" was said just to me.

I remember...hearing "The River" while driving to Wichita to see family and thinking that I'd love to be the she who'd borrow Beaker's bike.

I remember...using "Boy Like Me/Man Like You" as an introduction to teaching a compare/contrast essay to my seventh-grade English students.

I remember...crying and driving as I heard "Growing Young" and thinking it was what I wanted my brother to say.

I remember...writing out the words to "Growing Young" in big print so that my brother, who had asked for a copy, could read them in spite of his eyesight that was failing due to the complications of AIDS.

I remember...holding onto his desire to have a copy of the song as a small bit of hope after he died that I will see him again in heaven. I pray that Bruce is hearing Rich sing right now.

Thank you, Lord, for Rich and his music's ministry. Thank you for sharing him with us so that he could share You with all of us.

Julie

When i heard the news last sunday morning my heart dropped. i never got to meet Rich personally, but i felt like he was my best friend. his music spoke the words my heart could never seem to say about a God whom i love so much. Rich Mullins played a concert on what would be the first night in my journey to finding faith in Jesus Christ. I was invited to a church lock-in my

sophomore year in high-school. I wasn't a Christian nor did i think i even wanted to be, but all i knew was there was this guy named Rich who we were going to see play. It was a small concert, but it was crowded enough to where the only seat i could find was on the corner of the stage, two feet from Rich. i didn't know who he was at the time except for the fact that he was singing about an "Awesome God." two weeks later i would trust in Jesus as my savior. eight years later now, and the music that was so foreign to me then, has now become my hearts' cry. and in my eight years of faith i've grown enough to know that Rich is in the best hands that a child of God can be in. Truly Rich's life was indeed Christ and now is gain.

-Shea Sumlin

Has anyone found the words yet that can make the loss seem smaller? I miss you terribly, Rich. And what scares me is all the days I have yet to face without your words to help me through. All those beautiful words that were yet to be. I loved you Rich and I loved the Lord in you.

Dennis Ginnard

I found out about Rich's death Monday morning on my way to work, and it's taken me several days to digest this news; it's been tough going and I've had several sleepless nights. Tears are flowing as I write. <Sigh>

The first concert of Rich's I went to, I went because a guy from my singles group was going, not because I knew who Rich was. I remember seeing Rich outside the church with Beaker and I thought they were youth group kids. I was very surprised when I saw Rich enter the sanctuary with a Diet Coke and thought to myself, 'Didn't his mother teach him not to bring food or drink into the sanctuary?' When he kept on walking to the stage and the youth

minister announced him, I pretty much went, 'Oh! Well, I guess he needs his Diet Coke!' I was so struck by his honesty and boldness, his dulcimers, and by his fresh and slightly tilted look at the world and our God. I went to that concert to get to know someone I had a crush on better.... I came away knowing God better.

I can't really put into words all that Rich and his music meant to me. The lyrics, his humor and insight have inspired me to be more like Jesus, to pursue Him and a holier life. His words have comforted me in times of sadness and despair. I especially liked the time when things seemed like they couldn't get any worse and I turned on the radio to hear, '.... Things may look bad, and things may look grim, but all these things must pass...', which left me laughing at God's perfect timing,. All these temporal things don't matter, God does.

In 1995, an event happened concerning my health that left me absolutely terrified. I remember sitting in my car, listening to Wayne Watson sing 'It is Well With My Soul', and I told God it wasn't well with my soul, that I didn't know how to deal with this situation and asked Him to show me; I popped out a tape because I sing along. A scripture verse was on the radio -- Rejoice always, pray without ceasing -- how's that for a quick answer to prayer? I went through several doctors, a move to Arkansas to work for a Baptist ministry. I came back to Houston to see the doctor and because friends had given me tickets to see Rich that night. The day was good in that I didn't have to have surgery and I got to see Rich, but I was left with many unanswered questions and was so emotionally wrung out I almost didn't go. My friends talked me into it, and I'm so glad I did, even though I cried through most of the concert, I was so touched. And then, at the end, when Rich had us sing 'It is Well,' I was able to say, 'Yes, Lord, all is well. Despite pain and confusion and real need for an answers, all is well. And thank you for Rich.' I went home and wrote Rich a letter about it, telling him everything I just described, and thanking him for being in Houston on that particular night. And he wrote me back! and asked about my health and said it was a joy to him to have been a part of my rejoicing in our God. I was blissed out for days.

I still am in shock at his death. Even though I never really thought I'd hear of his passing when I was a little old lady (making him a much older little old man) I just didn't think it would be so soon. For his family and friends, I have been in almost continuous prayer.

I kinda think that Rich is telling the angels, "OK, we'll do that again. This time, basses, baritones, sing out more, 'K?" That and my dad has pulled him aside to tell him that I made Dad listen to him over and over and...

Peace, my Brothers and Sisters,
Ann Raper

Hold us, Jesus. Be our Prince of Peace while we are missing Rich.
Pastor Terry

Rich was truly one of a kind...he was a rebel yes, but I believe he was that to make us see Christ easier...when we think of Rich we think of those things that are very "scriptural" we think of Elijah, we think of "fighting Christ for something we don't really want than to take what He gives us for free"...we hear Christ speaking to us through Rich's music. I am a secretary at a Christian school, I spent a couple of minutes with a few of our older children talking about how sad we are about his passing but how he has given us a legacy...one we all know and sing...Our God Is An Awesome God they know this song and sing often, and through this legacy he has passed on his mission...Go and tell the World..."Our God Is An Awesome God." Rich would not want us to be sad...he would want us all to "be God's." God is with Rich's family, and as they reach out to Him may they find the peace that passes understanding.

Anne

When I found out about Rich during my lunch break on Monday, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I thought to myself, "anyone but Rich." I attending a concert he gave here in Jacksonville, FL, and he forever touched my life. It was one of the few Christian concerts that my husband has attended with me, and Rich's music meant a lot to him too. At that moment, all I could think of was his Elijah song, and I pictured him in the arms of Jesus when he went home to be with God. It makes me happy and sad at the same time, for I know he is eternally happy, but I will miss him, until I can hear him sing once again in Heaven. Please tell his family I am thinking of them.

Thank you and God bless.
Judy Mettke
Jacksonville, FL

I am stunned in a way that I thought impossible. But, God's Grace is REAL. And it is evident this night. God Bless You, Rich.....Rock on, praise on and I'll see you on the other side of Jordan. God is alive and so is Rich in a way more mysterious than we could ever explain with these fleshly tongues!!!!!! And, oh for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise!!!!!!

Richard Wayne Hall
Houston, Texas

Rich's music has deeply touched my life along with the thousands of others. When I heard the sad news for we left behind I was shocked. I was in church at the time during our worship service. After the news sunk in I remember thinking "Rich is really seeing what an Awesome God, God truly is right now". Our prayers our with you. God Bless and comfort you as only He can do.

-- Jennifer Corbin

I am so glad our youth had the opportunity to experience Rich in concert at CIY this past summer. His God given talent was evident in his songs and his personality shone on stage. Truly many were pointed to God through his life and ministry.

Dan Kirtlan

My heart goes out to your family in this time of loss. I cannot tell you how many times Rich's music comforted me, challenged me and helped me to grow. Each time I attended a concert (four) God found a new song to touch me in a new way. Just last week I was depending on the song "Hold Me Jesus" to cope with the loss of my grandfather. Today Rich is where Jesus can hold him, and he can give even greater glory to the Lord he loved so much. My prayers are with you.

Rod Tieszen

It was truly a tragedy to hear of loss of Mich. His songs were such a blessing and will continue to so. During this hard time, I pray that God will bless and comfort the family. As much as we needed him here, GOD must have needed him up THERE more. His fellowship and music will live on.

Leslee Baumann

This is actually from my daughter Libby Wolfe who is 9 and misses Rich.

Rich has inspired me through Jesus. I only went to one of his concerts, but that's enough to miss him. I went up to Rich and asked him for his autograph . He wrote Libbybegods. It was one

word. I miss Rich a lot, but as my mom said "Libby don't cry he is glad to be in heaven". The first song I learned to sing was "My One Thing" when I was little. I also really like "Step By Step" and "Boy Like Me" We have every one of his albums except the first one. I have a cd player in my room, I listen to his music sometimes. When ever I think about him I really miss him. Rich has helped me believe in Jesus more and become a better christian.

--Libby

I cannot shake the strange effect Rich's death has had on me. I never even got to see him perform, but from the first moment someone played me pieces of "A Liturgy...", I was hooked. Few Christian artists (whether authors or musicians) have managed to tell Christ's message in such a gritty, real way. Rich's poetry (as opposed to simply lyrics) didn't pull any punches. Life is hard. We are homesick. But somehow, he always managed to show us that everything is under control, and beautiful in its own way. As an aspiring writer, I cling to Rich's words and life as I search for ways to share God's truths. Few people have ever done it as well as he did, and he continues to inspire me. I've learned something of deep value to me as I've read the recent articles about Rich's life: He was in every way a servant. He was not seeking glory for anyone but God. I believe we've discovered the secret of his success. I hope I can take this lesson to heart! We'll miss Rich down here, but I can't wait to meet him and thank him later on.

Carolyn Holmes
Graduate Student, Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX

To Rich's family,

I only got to meet Rich once, but his lyrics brought me into God's presence often. He was much MORE than a musician or a star - he

honestly showed his thirst for God and he made me thirsty. Jesus is coming soon and I think God wanted Rich to come help King David and Keith Green write some incredible music - without any distractions. It won't be long before we see him again.

The week of Rich's death I listened to "Songs" over and over and I thought of him frequently. Both are unusual because I have lots of CD's to choose from, a very busy life, many concerns right now, and I didn't know him.

But whenever I thought about Rich that week, I felt impressed with loneliness, yet a great richness with Christ. (You named him well.) I wondered at the time why I would be thinking so much about someone I didn't know, and - did Rich actually feel lonely?

Then when my daughter told me the news, I was heartbroken and crumbled. Many tears. I am so very sorry for the grief and loss in your family. If my adult son could ever be half the man Rich was, I would be thankful beyond any words.

I am looking forward to meeting you sometime after the trumpet blows.

Nancy Boothe
Wichita, KS

Awesome God was the first contemporary Christian song that my wife and I shared together. It came at a time when we were separating, heading towards a divorce. It meant so much to us then and even more now. We have all of Rich's tapes and his songs minister to us often. We had the blessing of meeting Rich on several occasions and his simple devotion encouraged us to serve our Lord at a deeper level than we thought possible. He will be missed here on earth, but we are looking forward to seeing him in Heaven one day soon.

Chip Bruce

I took my 11 year-old niece to Rich's concert in Lafayette, IN , in June. I knew it would be a clean concert and that she would enjoy it. I wanted so badly to stay after to talk to Rich, but she was tired and I had a 45 minute drive home. I also wanted to ask Mrs. Mullins what she had done to raise such a Godly man. I have a young son and daughter and need all the help I can get. I wish I had stayed now.... I am so saddened by your loss. I am teaching my children to dance to the joy in Rich's music. As soon as I heard the news of Rich's death, in my mind's eye, I could see an angel scooping him up from this world and flying off with him to heaven to suffer no more. He is singing in the heavenly choir. Here on earth, he can live on in the smile on my daughter's face when she twirls around the room.

William Combs

His music deepened my faith in Jesus Christ beyond words. I met him on his 40th birthday following his concert in Chicago. I will never forget his warmth and kindness. The love of Christ exuded from his words and songs. It is a comfort knowing he is at home in heaven. I'll bet he's smiling right now...

Jacki

i just wanted to say that my life was touched by Rich and his music. He was a friend, though i never personally met him. His music reflected a heart of love and devotion to our God. He was blessed to be able to put words on the deepest heart groanings for many people. He was such a blessing to us all...now he gets to bless the Lord, in person.

I was shocked and saddened to hear of your son's death. Rich

Mullins was one of the five acts that really got me into listening to contemporary Christian music, in turn, helping bring a new richness to my life and relationship to God. Creed, Damascus Road, and of course, Our God is an Awesome God, have to be three of my favorite songs of all times.

It makes me sad that I will never get to see him in concert as I hoped to. But I just want to let you know mine is one more life he touched. I will never get to see him on this side, but glory to God I'll meet him in heaven on day. I'm looking forward to it.

Sincerely,
Niki Hollingsworth

rich's and mitch's family...you're in my thoughts and prayers everyday. i miss you. i love you. rich...i know you will be always looking down on him.

Mendy Goble

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I just want to let you know the impact of your son's life of faith on me. I met him sometime shortly after his first album "a few good men" was released. I am a drummer and a friend of mine at Blanton and Harrell called him one day to tell him that she knew of a drummer who was interested in playing in Christian music. She left a voice mail on his recording machine. It just so happened that Rich was on his way home (this is when he lived near Ashland City TN) and had just been praying for a drummer for his next concert. He arrived home and heard the answering machine message and called me on the spot. He told me that God had answered his prayer and he wanted me to play for him in two weeks. He had never heard me play. Quite honestly, it was my lifelong prayer that was answered in that moment. I was dumbfounded. His act of faith answered my prayer.

I played a number of concerts with him and got to know him rather well. I found him to be one of the most honest people I have ever known. He did not try to hide behind his celebrity and there were no pretenses about him. His faith was contagious and disquieting at the same time. Like King David, I think he was a man after God's own heart. Take heart that your son was not only gifted as a writer and as a musician, but that those who you will likely never meet were deeply touched by knowing him. I always thought I would call him someday just to say thanks for acting out of faith the day he hired me. I wish I could now.

With sympathy,
Paul Harris

The audience went silent as the lights faded to a slight dim. One person in the 15th row remained. He spoke no words, just sitting in silence. A small tear of grief, but also joy, runs down his face. He has experienced great loss, but no longer does someone so great have to see a world so full of hurt. Rich.....one song comes to mind now....one I know Ray Boltz and many others sang....you portrayed the song immensely....so I say this....
"Thank you, for giving to the Lord".

~To the world, you are somebody, To somebody, you are the world~

Peace and thanksgiving,
Jay

When I heard of the death of Rich Mullins, I could just imagine that if heaven has a red carpet welcome for certain souls, it was definitely rolled out for him. However, I am so sad for those of us left on earth without new music from Rich Mullins. Through his beautiful lyrics, I could express my own love of God. I consider Rich the finest Christian music artist we've ever known. He will truly be missed. God bless his family.

Eric

Friday, September 26, 1997

....i just saw rich a month ago in milwaukee for the first time.
in 1989, as a graduating high school senior, i received a CD
player for a gift... and with some of the money i had gotten, i
went and purchased my first Christian CD's...[i was just beginning
to investigate Jesus at the time..] Sandi Patty... Michael W.
Smith... and a wildcard that looked cool with a dog on the
cover... Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth..... suffice to say that
sandi and michael took a longtime backseat to some of the most
compelling lyrics i had ever heard. every line a message to the
soul, Scripture unpacked, paradoxes examined.. that CD was the
first to teach me that Christians love Jesus, and they think,
too.....

if i sing, let me sing for the joy that has born in me these
songs, and if i weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his
home..

welcome Home, kindred brother in the faith.. i can't wait to
greet you in glory, and to thank you for fueling my passion for
Christ.

stephanie

I thank God for Rich Mullins and the incredible music that has
ministered so deeply to me over the years. When I get to heaven
one of the first things I want to do is go to a Rich Mullins
concert!!

Rachel

"Hold me Jesus....I'm shaking like a leaf."

Those words speak out to me today. I hope that the peace of the Lord is with the Mullin family and that the love and grace that their son spoke of, is surrounding them now. I have written before but, still feel that not enough could be said for the life and ministry of Rich. From "Awesome God" to "Brothers Keeper", Rich Mullins touched my life with lyrics and harmonies that I was needing at that moment. As one of the few "Christian artists" that had not sold out, I respected his integrity and caused me to enjoy his music that much more.

I remember only a bit of another song."there is a thing called grace." I believe that with all my heart. With God's infinite grace, he granted each of us that are writing here at this moment, the opportunity to benefit from the music of Rich Mullins. In his grace I believe that God has given this opportunity, in the last month, with the loss of several noted persons of our day, to focus back on him, and to remind us of the hope that lies within us, in the bodily resurrection, and an eternity in praise and worship of an Awesome God. I feel in his grace, he granted Rich his dream of crossing over in eternal praise of our Father. Let's not let Rich down, and take this time to focus back on God, like Rich would have wanted us to.

Kim

My condolences. His life and music have been an inspiration and will be greatly missed.
Gareth Patterson

I thank the Lord for Rich Mullins and his music. His family and friends are in my prayers. I feel an overwhelming sense of

sadness, and yet I cling to the hope of God's promises. It won't be long, and we will all be together again! Praise the Lord!!!
Joel Christy

A Poem For Rich

For Many roads we traveled on, you knew which way was right,
For Many dark days that we lived in, you shone the light,

Giving glory to his name, and praising him the day through,
There was never a time of doubt when I was listening to you.

If anything good came of this, I hope that it could be,
People are saved from the grief we share, and the love that they could see,

My Christian family, grieves and mourn, but I have to say thank you.
For there was never a time of doubt, when I was listening to you.

Talents move on, and names fade through years,
But this talent was the talent that was given you will last through the tears.

Grief is good, it washes and cleanses the soul,
Listening to your music, it helped me feel whole.

I'm sorry I never had the chance to thank you in person,
But I know that someday I will dance with you, with God's holy One.

Until that wonderful day, when I'm finding it hard to make it through,
I will listen to your song, cuz there's never a time of doubt when I'm listening to you.

In Loving memory of Rich Mullins. Thank you Rich, and God bless

you.
Bell

I met Rich when He did my youth retreat in Atlanta. I had the joy of talking with him for almost three hours. In that small amount of time I learned of the humble heart that was before me. I knew right then and there that his life is, and had been fully devoted to the Lord. Ever since those days I have enjoyed his works, and found them to be of great inspiration and motivation in my life. I am so happy that in this day Rich is with the one he most longed to be with. To his family I just want to remind them that in Rich's life, Death is merely the extinguishing of a candle because the sun has come.

Paul Arcos

We have truly lost a wonderful brother. God must have wanted some new music in heaven because Rich could certainly give it. I'm very thankful that Rich gave to all of us everything that God had given him. I'm grateful that God gave us Rich for this short time. We'll meet again, I know, and all Sing Our Praise to the Lord. My deepest sympathy and prayers for his family.
Dee Wingfield

Ouch!!! What a loss this world has suffered and what a prize heaven has gained/reclaimed. We will definitely miss you, Rich. I can just see him barefoot, singing "Our God is An Awesome God" with the angles. I'm jealous!!!! Your music will continue to touch millions.

My fondest Rich Mullins memory is listening to the beginnings of a concert blown by the wind while cooking pancakes at Jesus Northwest, wishing that they didn't take so long to cook and that i hadn't over slept. And then after joining the small crowd (poor

people didn't know what they were missing!!!) in awe of a truly talented man. What a concert of praise. I also remember seeing him for the last time on "official tour" and thinking what a great and truly selfless man to leave music to reach the Navaho people. I remember waling away from the concert feeling closer to God.

To Rich's family - i'm praying for you in your time of loss...

God be with you.....

Denise Maddock

I told Rich once that I wanted to be his friend. I was hoping that he might have said, "My friend, your friend I am." We had never before met, and he had no words for that awkward introduction. Instead he just looked blankly at me like I was the weirdest person in the world. Probably so, nevertheless, I simply wanted to describe for Rich how God honored me with the lyrics and melodies of a common Hoosier brother. Yet my weirdness prevailed that meeting.

When someone like Rich, brings healing so wonderfully and so deeply to a tormented psyche, all that can be offered is the very most anyone really ever has: the gift of self. Rich seemed to have done that for all who would listen, I had one chance to give myself to him, weirdness and all, and I gave.

I like to think that perhaps he told a few stories about this curious fella who wanted to be his friend. I know I have told a few too.

James Richards

We have lost one of the world's great poets. It's hard to believe. I will miss him and his gifts. How many people do you know that could play hammered dulcimer? Jesus, please comfort

Rich's and Mitch's family and friends, and bring healing to Mitch. And thank you so much for allowing Rich to minister here as long as he did, and for giving him the songs that touched us all.

M. Sheets

I have listened to Christian music most all my life, my husband and I have over 500 cds and Rich was one of our favorites; why? because you could really see he was in love with Jesus. We have attended many concerts of various Christian artist, and I must say some of them you just don't see or feel Jesus through them.

I believe sometimes there is such a longing within a person to be with their Savior, and to want more and more of a relationship with Him, that the only way to fulfill that is to be with Him. I compare this with Keith Green's love for the Lord and his death at such a young age. Rich is experiencing joy beyond measure, and I need to concentrate on his joy instead of our loss. His music was more than music it was a light showing the way, a hug of comfort in the time of grief, a celebration of joy with our Father, but above all an true example of Christ.

To God: Thank you for blessing us with such a servant, and I know you will take care of him until we meet again.

To the Mullins: A part of your pain is felt by millions, and may you take comfort in knowing that your son lived is life as an example of God's Son and touched many many lives. I hurt with you and love you as I loved your son. My family is praying for your family and thank you so much for the love you have shown to your son for he was able to share that love through out the world. His music will continue to bless many. God bless and be with you all.

Wini Green,
Dayton, OH

We are all saddened by the tragic news of Rich's death...but as our children sing Rich's songs, that they have memorized, as they play around the house, we pray that we may leave such a spiritual legacy -if we could only keep these thoughts forward in our minds for years to come...

God, may we live with the priorities of life that Rich had...may we remember that we are not of this world, and strive to let others know that also...

God bless you and your family, and thank you for the upbringing and heritage that you gave to Rich...we can't wait to see him again in Heaven and sing to God what an Awesome God he is!!!

Bruce Nyquist

Thank you to the Mullins family, for sharing your son and brother with the entire Christian community through his music and lyrics. I am saddened in a selfish way that I had never been to one of his concerts, but his music will live on forever through the recordings of it. He left a legacy that you can truly be proud of, but give God the glory for it, as Rich would have you to do. Our Lord is an "Awesome God" and I thank Him for the special people, like Rich, that He uses as vessels to uplift, encourage, and inspire all of us. May He also bless Mitch and his family in the situation they are experiencing, that a healing will take place, and more lives can be positively influenced through Mitch's ministry.

And as Rich would say on his autographs....."BE GOD'S!!!!!!"

Robert Dow

Even though I didn't know this man, my heart goes out to those close to him. Yes, he's in a better place and we all could take some lessons from a very caring man. God Bless All!

I found out Sunday night when I got home from a trip I was on and heard the devastating news. I know some people who knew him personally from my church so it affects me more than normal. He was a great and always will be for that matter a great Christian Artist. With songs Awesome God, Step by Step and Sing Your Praise to the Lord those really were my favorites and I am sure a lot of others. And to this day I still listen to those songs and always will. I am glad that he won't have to be sick or in pain anymore. I guess what I am trying to say is that I know he is up in Heaven and is watching over everyone down here. I am remembering a part of a Mariah Carey and Boyz To Men song "One Sweet Day". It goes like this.

And I know your shining down from Heaven
Like so many friends we've lost along the way
And I know eventually we'll be together
One Sweet Day

Rich until then we love you and can't wait to see you in Heaven.

And to the Family of Rich----My prayers are with you always!!!
Just know that your son/brother was a huge influence on everyone who would hear his music.

Love a fan of yours,
Nanette

I am devastated. I found the Lord at age 31 after many, many years of "notorious living". Rich's music was the first contemporary Christian music I listened to. I played "The world as I remember It", vol. 2, over and over again. "Growing Young" seemed to describe my life experience to a "T".

What endeared me to Rich was the way he communicated his struggle with his humanity (and that of this world) in his music. To me,

that was the ultimate expression of his humility...his acknowledgement through his lyrics that he was a sinning human being...in need of a Savior. Often scared, at times hurting, angry at some of the things he witnessed in this world, but NEVER without hope! I will never forget him.

Peace,
Jeff Kitchen
Grand Rapids, MI

Hello old friends,

We just wanted to share our condolences with Rich's family and friends. I just visited the home page, and can easily echo what many others have said about how God has used Rich's songs--so many of them!--to touch my spirit very deeply. We will miss him dearly, and look forward to meeting him again on the other side of the Jordan. I only praise God that "though there's nothing new to say, the old old story bears repeating and the plain old truth grows dearer every day." That's what's amazing about this music...each song can be used by God to touch me in a new way that I haven't been touched before. A phrase that didn't mean anything a year ago suddenly hits me right where I need to be hit and becomes dear...like a message from the mouth of God. So, I will miss hearing any new revelations from Rich, but trust that the wealth of music he has left us will continue to be used by God in my life.

Thanks, Rich. We will miss you...I'm sure you have plenty of "wonders" to sing about now!!

Love,
Dan and Stacey Dyer,
Colorado Springs, CO

Being new to modern Christian music, I just discovered Rich when he played at St Matthew's in Belleville, Illinois this summer. What a gift he was, but why so brief? The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Have peace.
Steve Sutherland

My wife and I were saddened to hear of Rich's death, but encouraged to know that he is rejoicing in Heaven. His music ministers to my soul!

steven and leanne presley,
birmingham, al

Hello, My name is Tod Rye and I am a 20 year old college student from Russellville, AR. I'm also a radio personality on the christian station here in my home town. I would like to express to you my sincere condolences on the recent loss of Mr. Mullins. He has impacted my life greatly with his music, his ministry and his humbleness. The first Christian album I ever bought was The World as Best As I can Remember It Volume II. I heard the song step by step which led me to get the album. Other songs made me love the music he brought forth, and the love and emotion he put into his music shows people like myself and others what being a minister of the gospel is all about. My station is doing a Tribute to Rich for all he has done with Christian Music and the Indian Reconciliation. I believe he was planning on coming to Russellville to do a benefit concert for Wayne Drain for the help he gave for Indian Reconciliation. I was going to be in Charge of Promoting the concert. I pray that God will fill the void left behind with His love. I know He will because He is Faithful and Just to Us His children. Have a great day and know that Rich Mullins was a positive influence on my life.

In Christ,

Tod A. Rye

Just to let know Rich's relatives that his music to God, helped tons of people to focus in God and our brothers and sisters. His music trespassed the border, his life, right now, trespassed the world.

Rafael Hermosillo,
Son. Mexico

I had the honor of knowing Rich, as he was my church youth director in the 1970's. Please extend my condolences to his mother, who I met briefly one cold winter's day. She will not remember me, I am sure, but her gentle spirit made an impact on my life forever. Rich was a very special person to me. I last saw him two years ago in Atlanta and he looked so happy. I know his life dream was to teach and am glad that he was able to fulfill his dreams. May God richly bless his family in this tragic time.

Debbie Washburn Stively

Although I never met Rich, I felt that I knew him. His song Awesome God was the first Christian song I ever heard as I was just starting my walk as a Christian. I feel that he and his music have been a companion, an inspiration as I journey closer to the Lord. I was fortunate enough to see Rich in concert a few years ago in Gainesville, FL. The church was packed!!! The thing that amazed me the most, was at the end of the concert, Rich taught us all Step by Step and we ended the concert all singing it together. Instead of staying and waiting for applause, Rich left the stage and we finished by worshipping our God. His humility, joy, talent, and most of all his openness to share his relationship with God will be truly missed. Rich, our loss is

heaven's gain. We will miss you. I pray that your music and your Legacy will live on and continue to touch the hearts of many people who need to hear the Lord's voice. We'll see you in heaven one day!

In Jesus' Love,
Sheila Bisson
Laurel, MD

Rich Mullins was maybe the best songwriter of our time. He was truly a man of God.
Jason Tench

The treasure of Rich's music has had a lasting impact on my life as well as the lives of many, many other people.

There are many good songwriters in Christian music. But while many of them can turn life experiences into song, there are few who can relate scripture to modern life experience the way Rich could. Really the only other songwriter I would put in such a high category is Michael Card. It's interesting to note that both of these songwriters got their start with songs on the same Amy Grant album (Age to Age). Rich with "Sing Your Praise" and Michael with "El Shaddai."

I live in Houston Texas and we are blessed to have one of the best contemporary Christian stations in the country, KSBJ. I heard the news last Saturday while driving home from a barbecue. When the DJ came on and spoke the words "we are saddened today by the news of the loss of one of the great elder statesmen of the Christian Music industry..." my heart froze, but I really wasn't prepared for it to be Rich Mullins.

To the family of Rich Mullins:

As much as Rich's death grieves my heart, I can only imagine the

grief you are going through. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Rich meant a lot to me and countless other fans. I have listened to, and will continue to listen to his music almost daily. I am in the choir at my church as well as leading Wednesday night 2-5 year old childrens music on Wednesday nights. Hardly a Sunday passes when we don't sing one of Rich's songs during our service, usually "Awesome God" or "Step by Step". And during Children's church on Wednesdays, their favorite song is "Our God is an Awesome God." In fact, I usually have a hard time getting them stop singing it when we are done so we can do the next song.

If pressed to settle on a personal favorite song of Rich's it would probably be "First Family" which unfortunately received little airplay, but is a glowing indication of the impact that you have had on shaping his character and I bless you and thank you for that.

Again, my prayers are with you and thank you for giving Rich as your gift to the world.

Brandon Bee

I am truly sorry for your loss. Rich was one of the few Christian musicians I truly admired. His integrity was evident and rare.

One of my favorite albums is "A Liturgy, A Lesson, and a Ragamuffin Band". Every song speaks to me and causes me to think on my spiritual life and my relationship with God.

God will bless you for raising such a fine Christian young man. You and your family will be in my prayers.

Lou Gardner

Rich Mullins was truly a humble servant of God. Heaven is rejoicing right now because one of God's children has come home to be with our father in heaven. His music was only one of a few that I felt was truly straight from the heart and breathed on by God, because it touched us so deeply and helped to praise our Father in heaven. Our prayers will always be with Rich's family and for Mitch's full recovery.

Dear God, I pray that you will comfort the family of Rich Mullins in their time of loss, and I pray that you will heal Mitch's wounds and his heart right now. And Lord, tell Rich how much he meant to us and what a great example he was for us. Praise be to God for His sovereignty -- that "He sits on His throne and does as He pleases."

Valerie Bridges

Rich, I admire your integrity and depth of insight, but most of all how you were willing to let us see through you so we could catch a better view of God. I love your music and all of the creative ways you found to profess Jesus Christ as Lord! He was indeed faithful to complete a good work in you. Thank you for your joyful legacy, my friend. I can't wait until we can dance with you and all the prophets and saints at Jesus' feet. Until then, cheer us on!

Karen Stelter

Lord, please tell Rich we miss him...
Rob

I haven't listened to his music for very long - a little over a year. My brother-in-law saw Rich in concert 2 years ago and loved him. I introduced me to his music. It has been a daily

inspiration as I took long walks alone, drove my 35 mile commute to school where I teach or just need to feel uplifted during personal trials and bouts with depression. As an adopted Native American (Klamath Tribe, Oregon), I was impressed to hear about his work there. I am saddened to hear of his passing and send my condolences to his family and prayers to his friend's family. He was a wonderful person who's music will live in my heart, and play in my soul for years to come.

Alice

Rich Mullins was one of the greatest performers I have ever had opportunity to see. I loved his music, and his heart of God. He is missed greatly by my family. Our prayers are with his family. We know he is with the Father even now as I type this.

Todd Wareing

I guess God liked Rich's work as much as we did, and so he gained the great reward. It's sad for us, but wonderful to know his work continues in heaven. We will miss his talents very much

Sue Paisley

Kent, WA

I first fell in love with Rich Mullins while I was on a mission trip to Russia. I was on a never-ending train ride across Siberia (homesick) and was listening to "Here in America." Thinking about how wonderful it is that no matter where I am, there God is! "Step by Step" was my anthem as I made the decision to go on staff full-time with a mission organization to work with children in Russia, Africa, South America and India. I take Rich's music with me wherever I go. He gave me such a bigger picture of who God is. I will deeply miss him and how he would humbly yet powerfully sing

of God's greatness.

Thank you, Mrs. Mullins, for giving his faith roots and wings.
Lalani

Through his music and character sketches provided by his friends and loved ones, it is obvious that Rich was a fine example of Paul's claim in Philippians 1:21--

"For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Andrew Nearn

This is the man who has written such great songs as If I Stand, All The Way My Savior Leads Me, and Step by Step. That they all have somehow touched and worked in my life so much that I can never find the words to thank him for what he has done in my life. In closing, I just want to thank Rich Mullins for being such a great example of faith and for showing me that sometimes you just got to set your selfishness aside and let God use us to do His Work on earth.

-tyler

As much as I hate to see him go, I believe he would have us rejoice with him as now he can give praise straight to God in a way that we can't even imagine yet! He will be missed. His music was so real, nothing fake or flashy, just the message of the TRUTH. Nothing for his glory or fame or success, but only to share what God taught him. God bless Him

I could not deal with his death for many days. Our family was in denial and refused to play his music until this morning. As we listen and grieve openly, we read the e-mail of others who are

grieving also. Rich helped to convert me to Christ and when I was baptized I took the name Elijah as he was my favorite pillar of strength. Now I am reminded of Elisha watching Elijah leave. He cried father, father and he tore his clothing in sheer brokenheartedness. I also remember Elisha then called "Where is the God of Elijah? Then the waters parted for him as it had for Elijah. To all of my christian friends and brothers regardless of denomination, may the waters still part for you in the name of the God of Rich Mullins.

Dan Thresher

I cried and I mourned and I found peace knowing that Rich was with our Lord. Our local Christian radio station played a Rich Mullins song every hour for several days as a tribute to a terrific disciple of the Lords. Every time I heard the words "I want to go out like Elijah," I thought to myself, "I'm sure you did."

Rich touched a lot of lives with his gift of song, he will be greatly missed. I look forward to hear him sing again that new song in heaven.

God bless you and his family, may you all find comfort in the shelter of his wings. amen

a sister in Christ
lisamarie

I saw Rich in concert 9 or 10 times, and spoke with him many times. I drove to Wichita in Dec. '92 to see him; my wife-to-be could not go, and after the concert Rich spoke with her on the phone for a few minutes. Since then, each time I would see him, he'd always say, "Where do I know you from?" and I'd remind him, and he would remember. For all the things that can be said about this man, the one thing that sums it up is to remember that when

signing an autograph, he'd always put the person's name, followed by "be God's". Rich was, and now more than ever, is.

Matt Moseley

As I read this page, I am touched and warmed to find that I am not nearly alone in regarding Rich Mullins as one of my greatest influences and inspirations. Although he never knew me personally, I feel as though I knew him, since his music and lyrics came from the very depths of his heart and soul. I once heard him say on the radio that he thought his voice sounded funny, and I guess it wasn't the greatest voice in Christian music. But that didn't matter. His music came from his soul, and that's all I hear when I listen to him.

But there was so much more to him than just his music. I can sing his songs-I know all the words-but I don't back them up the way he did. He was one of those rare few-truly bright light in a dark world. The world didn't appreciate his music enough, but more importantly, it grossly undervalued the man. When I think of him and another religious figure who recently passed on, the main differences that I see are that Rich didn't live in one of the poorest countries in the world, Mother Teresa wasn't a recording artist, and Rich died way too soon.

Actually, I say that very selfishly. I'm trying my hardest as I work through this not to be angry at God for taking Rich. I believe that instead we should be thankful to God for sharing his servant with us as long as he did. We have all been so richly blessed by Rich having lived at all-and we will always have a part of him with us as long as we have his music. Thank you, Rich. And, more importantly, Thank you, God.

Jay Laengrich

I was greatly sadden at Rich's death. I enjoyed his music very

much.
Dawnlee

I wanted to share with you a quote from a sermon Rich preached at a Youth convention I attended.

"There is only two ways a person dies. Either your spirit shrinks and shrinks until one day your body collapses around it. Or, your spirit grows and grows until it finally outgrows your body."

In my estimation, Rich's spirit outgrew his body.

Michael Weiss

I have waited to write because of the way I deal with sadness and pain. We all loved Rich and his music. While I did not know him personally, is music ministered to me in a way that is beyond description. I want to offer you my heartfelt condolences and comfort. I, too, have lost family members recently and am still dealing with their deaths, but I think what has helped me through all of this is to think that we will all see Rich and hear his music again. What a comfort that is!

Stephanie Armstrong

There are no words that say enough. Even more than his music, the strength of Rich's spirit and faith flowed out over the spotlights to help each of us see ourselves in the family of God at every concert he performed. I first had this experience at a point in my life when it made all the difference. My prayers are with you and all those who love Rich.

Erna-Lynne Bogue

I was returning from a trip to Baltimore with some friends on last Sunday night. We had not yet heard the tragic news. Along the drive, we all noticed how brilliant the starscape was! The following morning, i found out about the incident. One of the first thoughts that came to my mind was his song "Elijah." It finally dawned on me this afternoon that he said, "When I look back on these stars, It'll be like a candlelight in Central Park!" Could it be that God chose to honor the homegoing of a servant by making the stars as many candlelights in Central Park? Just a thought. My condolences to his family and close friends. In my brief conversation with him at Creation '96, he truly made an impact on my life. There will never be another Rich Mullins, but may we all strive to live with his passion for God!

In Him who gives life,
The greatest of the Great,
Jonathan Brewin

I was surprised at how much the death of Rich Mullins has affected me. I've been listening to his music and thinking about him everyday. My sorrow goes out to his family and close friends. I know that he is happy to be "home". I met Rich and Mitch in Gainesville, GA at an acoustic concert. My friends, my brother and I helped tear down the set. It was great to meet Rich and Mitch afterwards. He thanked us and told us a joke! I love his music and can't believe that we'll never hear any new Rich Mullins projects. We always looked forward to hearing his newest album. It always spoke to my soul.

Allen Harris

Please accept my condolences as you struggle with this terrible loss and know that I am praying that the LORD will comfort you

with the promise that you will one day see Rich again. I would also like to say that I am happy that Rich is now in Heaven, who better to sing for the LORD and be warmed by his light than Rich, one of the most outstanding Christian men of our time. God shared him with us for but a moment, and we now have something even more wonderful to look forward to knowing that he will be waiting with open arms when our Savior finally calls us.

I am praying for you daily and am willing to help with anything.

May Christ Comfort you,
C. Robert Hand

Dear Family,

I am sorry about the recent passing of your family member, Rich. I write you to pay off my regards of my favorite Christian Singer, Rich Mullins. I loved his singing and I hope that I can help you in any way.

Lo Wang

Since I heard of Rich's death last week, I feel a sadness that I would expect at the loss of a family member. I was introduced to Rich's music shortly after I became a Christian and his lyrics have so many times been a comfort and encouragement to me. From the first time I heard "If I Stand" it has been my absolute favorite song. So much of Rich's music made me think of God in a new way and made me see Him for the Beautiful Creator that He is. I thank God for Rich and I am truly saddened by his death. I know Rich is enjoying himself. I'll miss him. I have so many of his lyrics coursing through my head right now which reinforces that his music truly speaks with Gods comfort. "Can I be with you? I want to be with you." - WELCOME HOME RICH!

Robert Bridge

Thanks, Rich, for the inspiration you gave me when I became a reborn Christian 8 years ago. and thank you for being my sister's inspiration when her first Christian concert was yours in San Antonio Texas. I pray that your songs will continue to win souls for our Father and continue to be of great encouragement to us. What a great honor you have been given to sing LIVE to our Creator; hope to be at one of those LIVE concerts with you when our Lord invites me.

Love Ya.....

Lydia Ponce

The music of Rich helped transform the way I look at Christianity. I can still remember listening to my first Rich Mullins tape on my way to a missions trip in Miami. Oh how I hated it. But the more I listened the more it made sense and wasn't boring at all. In fact it was more dynamic and true than anything I had ever heard before. So I decided to strive to live as a radical Christian, no matter how foolish people thought it was. The lyric that Rich wrote that defines the way I want to live is:

"If we can reach
Beyond the wisdom of this age
Into the foolishness of God,
That foolishness will save,
Those who believe.
Although their foolish hearts may break,
They will find peace,
And I meet you in that place,
Where mercy leads."

Kevin Hadley

The concert was in 1988 in Pennsylvania and was so awesome. Rich was walking around before the concert and I was able to talk with him for a little while. I was amazed at how personable and down-to-earth he was. He was just a "normal" guy who loved music only second to his love for sharing God's message. During the concert, I was most impressed by the array of musical instruments he played and the many that were incorporated by his band. He was the first Christian musician that I believed really knew how to use his talent for music. As a Christian of 5 years, back then, I was already hooked on his music and ministry. I still am.

Jennifer Irani

I have been inspired by Rich Mullins' music. I have been even more greatly inspired by his life of Christlike compassion. There are many talented people. There are far fewer virtuous. Here was a man who combined the two in faithful service to his Lord.

Mark D. Linville
Professor of Philosophy
Atlanta Christian College

On Thursday morning, during our regular worship chapel time, my friend Jeremy stepped forward to say a few words about the impact Rich Mullin's music and death had had on him. In those ten minutes I was given permission to mourn for a man who I never met, never saw in concert, but who had a profound impact on my spiritual walk. His music touched me, and will continue to touch me, and the legacy he leaves behind- an earnest search for God, and a life of compassion- is one I will continue to strive for, not for Rich, but for the Lord we share that I will continue to serve.

Our God blessed him with his gifts, and our sovereign God was in

control when Rich was finally allowed to come home.

I will continue to long for my home,
heatherly

Mrs. Mullins;

I've started this message over about five times because I am at such a loss of words. I am 27 years old and have a 16 month old daughter and one on the way. After being brought up in a christian household, I fell away when I went to college. I always knew God was there by my side, but something was definitely lost in my relationship.

I even attended christian meetings hoping to find some real fellowship, but went throughout my entire college career wondering why christianity was the one and only way to go. During my senior year, at the age of 22, a friend introduced me to your son's music. By the end of my senior year, I had every one of his songs memorized and went to a concert held in West Lafayette, In. Rich was genuine and human. He talked about his struggles as a christian and his sincerity was so evident in his lyrics. During the hard times, there was "Hope to Carry on." "Boy Like Me/Man like You" is one of my favorites because it reminds us Jesus was a boy before he was the man we know. He went through hardships too. I look back and think what a big part your son played in reshaping my christian walk. I am a high-school math teacher now, but have chosen to stay home and be a housewife until my children get older. My husband and I teach a high-school Sunday school class and he plays the guitar for the Weds. night Youth Group. He is also a teacher and loves God with all his heart. We sing "Awesome God" and many other songs in our youth services. My husband would get so frustrated, wondering HOW Rich could sing a trillion words in such a small sentence with three only chords. I'd laugh, because I'd be reminded of the song, "Where You Are."

So, Rich not only touched our generation with his music, but his music will live on AS GOD INTENDED....and will affect future

listeners as well. He and Keith Green have touched millions of hearts not only by what they said through their music, but by the life they chose to lead and what they chose to stand for. Now, they are wearing crowns.

My husband is a football coach and is going to be at a game tonight. He does not know yet, but I know his reaction will be the same as mine. You have millions of people praying for you and sharing your loss.

May God richly bless you.

Melissa and Jeff Hutchison

Dear Mullins Family and Friends,

I, like many others, experienced a heart stopping moment when i heard that Rich had died. I heard it after church on Sunday and I just sat there for awhile feeling confused; I was imagining the joy that Our Lord must be feeling to finally have Rich with Him, but then there was extreme sadness in my heart for the loss of one of God's most inspiring disciples.

I have been to a few of Rich's concerts and have a lot of his music with me. The Lord spoke through Rich quite a few times not just to myself, but also to my brother in a fairly crisis- like situation. You've probably been hearing Rich stories and reading Rich stories for the past week. Praise God! Rich really answered the Lord's call and made sure he delivered the message on to others.

My favorite Rich story is the time that I first heard him in concert. It had been the first Christian concert (let alone any concert) I had ever been to. The Lord really spoke to me of some changes that i needed to make in my life through the music and the rain that we made (the hand thing he did in the middle of his concerts). Afterwards, i got a chance to meet with Rich. I went and spoke to him for awhile and then asked him to pray for me and

you know what he did? He brought out the wisdom of God and told me to find a women, an elder at my own church, in whom i could confide and ask her to pray for me. Rich said that he was no one great and that he didn't know what i was going through so a prayer from him wouldn't have any special powers....what he did do though was pray with me right then and that he would ask the Lord to provide a way for me. That was one of the most powerful and wise prayers i had ever been a part of. He asked me my name and all and then i left.

afterwards, they had set up a table where we could go get things autographed. It was funny because a group of us from my church had gone but there were still a few missing. So i kept going back up there to get things signed for other people. Every time i went up, Rich would sign something else for me with the advice to "Be God's"....but by the end of the night he memorized my little group and my name. His humbleness wasn't just evident by his barefeet, but by his plain old humor. The last thing few things he signed for me said "Minnie, Be God's again" and "Minnie I ain't signing anything else for you, Be God's". He was a classy man who definitely left a good impression, God's love for me, on my heart.

I extend a heart full of prayers for you all and for especially for Mitch. A heart full of Praises to Jesus for the good work He completed in Rich.

On behalf of the Chicago Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship and myself,
God Bless You.

until we meet on That Glorious Day,
sincerely
Minnie Mathew

Thank you very much. I will contact you in a few weeks.

I still can't believe he's gone...we will miss him deeply til we see him again!

David Wiser

As I look at all of these letters all I can say is WOW! God used Rich in a mighty way. He was humble. I am a teenage, and I struggle with pride and being accepted. There were days I would come home and listen to Rich. It wasn't long after that God would speak to me. There were days I was moved to tears, other days to frustration at myself, shame, awe, and joy. I have to constantly be reminded how short life is. I have to constantly re-gain an eternal perspective on life. Rich was such a great role-model for me. I know people tend to put my generation down and say how hopeless we are, but I have to say "Well, where are our role models?" Even though Rich was popular in Christian music, he did not let it go to his head, or worry about what will sell etc. I wish I could tell him all I feel, but in Heaven, I'll get to see the One who made him the person he was!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Yes!!!!!!!!!! Now that is cool!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Reatha Valera

Hello~

I know this has taken me a while to write. I just couldn't get the words written down before & now, I've got to send them. So, I hope someone out there reads it; just reads it. Thank you.

What type of an impact has Rich Mullins' music made on my life? What hasn't it done?!? Back in 1992, I did not listen to a drop of Christian music at all. One Saturday afternoon, I "accidentally" saw Rich in concert. He was playing at 6-flags. The person I was with wanted to see the concert before his & after. Since we had good seats, we decided to stay. =) As soon as Rich walked out onto the stage, I was intrigued. But, it wasn't until a couple months later that I listened to his music. You see, I was away at college & this man began stalking me. It was the worst 2 years of my entire life & yet, it was the best. It was

during this time that I decided to run. Run from everything. School, home, responsibility, friends, family, and even God. Then, I remembered that strange guy that I saw a couple months before without the shoes. =) Suddenly I thought, maybe he can help me. So, I went out & bought The World as Best as I Can Remember it Vol I & II. ~And, (the best part) God's hand reached down on the random play on my CD player & played the song "Where You Are" several times in a row. I simply dropped to my knees & gave all of my fear over to My Lord. Since then, dealing with that, my daddy's death, and growing in general, God has sent me a strong message every couple months (via Rich's music). There has been a lot of growth spurred from many a Rich Mullins song. And now, with his death, God has taught me yet another lesson. I don't have to be afraid of death. My Savior is waiting for me there & It will be a wonderful homecoming! Praise the Lord for Rich & the music we were allowed to listen to through him! He taught us to love God with our all & love everything that belongs to Him. God is the God of everything good, let's remember that & continue to Be God's!

Cathy (St. Louis)

I think all of us who have been touched by Rich in some way are going to miss him. But isn't it awesome to know that when it's our turn to go home, he'll be one of the people who will welcome us? If it wasn't for "Hold Me, Jesus" I probably wouldn't be writing this. His songs encouraged, uplifted, convicted, and strengthened me. I pray they continue to do so. I will stand on the promise Jesus has given me. I will stand and never fall. I will work and pray until You come Or until You take me Home. Home to the Father. No, that's nothing that Rich wrote. It's something I did, and I think it would say something he felt about our lives on earth in a simple way. I will see you again my friend, but until then, I will feel a little homesick...

E. Good

I've waited and thought and prayed. I thank God for the message I have heard and continue to hear in the music Rich Mullins brought to my life. It is the out reach that I can offer as I share his music with others. Thank you Lord for letting Rich bring an awesome message from God to all of us.

Margie Shoop

My life (like so many others) has been powerfully impacted by Rich's music and ministry and as I have been reading in all the posts about people's lives, the words in Rich's music, and what about his life people were affected by, I have been encouraged in and pointed to the Lord. It truly has been a glimpse of our Father's heart, how he can use regular broken humans to do supernatural things, and an incomplete, but beautiful picture of heaven. It is also great to see technology being used in a way that truly makes people's lives better (after all the Lord must have created technology too!!) Believers scattered all around this planet have been connected and shared their prayers, praises and thanksgiving together.

I read these memorials as I am trying to hear the Lord's call on my life concerning full-time ministry. I have been feeling that my gifts and passions in life may be best suited to ministering to kids and leaders. I want to spend my life for the Lord, give it away, and I have read about a man who did his best to do that and I have heard from so many about the eternal impact that effort has made. From my journalling, here are some things from Rich's life I want to be characteristics of my life also: -humility - to be able to "walk off stage, giving all the glory to God" -simple and unassuming - to walk barefoot and love jeans and t-shirts and not be mis-directed by things of this world -brutally honest - about my faith, failures, struggles, and the joy and cost of following the Lord -centered on and passionate about scripture -"longing for home" Thank you Lord for the things you taught me in Rich and his music.

I am praying for you, the Mullins family, Mitch and his family,
and the truck driver.

God Bless,
Jean Klinkhamer

I found out last night that Rich Mullins was killed in a car crash. This is hard to swallow for anybody who knew him or his songs much at all. Rich's quirky life got inside us. His work moved and disturbed us in its relentless homage to the truth of Christ.

So full of whimsy and the sound of the Eternal ringing in his ears, Rich was famous for being clueless and profound at the same time! He was both an eccentric stranger and a friend to me. I played and sang on his albums. We did concerts together. Being a part of his music is one of the cherished hallmarks of my life.

I suppose it's no real surprise that his life ended abruptly. He did seem to live like a meteorite! The "reckless raging fury" of God's love is what he was onto! I simply hoped for more chapters, more chances, more strange improvisational occasions to play for and glimpse the wild heart of a true believer.

So goodbye Rich. Go headlong into the mystery of God. I am grateful to have lived during your lifetime.

- Billy Crockett

My wife and I saw Rich for the first time at Jesus Northwest (Vancouver, WA) in July, 1993. He had just gotten his head shaved because he performed at an air force base the night before! Quite the shock seeing him so long haired in all the articles. He was so awesome on the dulcimer, and his music had such an incredible amount of heart. I have met a number of CCM artists over the last ten years, my wife and I really hoped to have met him to let him

know what his music means to both of us. Rich really has been our favorite male vocalist and songwriter. We are very sad that we have lost our friend, but we rejoice that he is home and I am looking forward to seeing him when I, too, cross heaven's gate. God bless Rich's music to bless the many, many people who have been moved by his ministry - and many more through his recordings.

Gene McDougall

To Rich's family and friends:

I just wanted to pass on my condolences to Rich's family and friends.

As so many others have written, I never met Rich, but through listening to his music and seeing him on stage, I feel that I knew him well. I've been listening to Rich almost exclusively since I first heard him five years ago, and seen him in concert three times (any time I knew he was within a 300 mile radius).

His CD's were the first to be placed in my CD player 4 1/2 years ago, and I've added each new album as it's become available. It holds 10 CDs, and Rich's are never removed. The 10th slot will soon be filled with Canticle. I also have purchased each cassette for my car (which often were replaced when one or another was given to a hitch-hiker), and have the "Songs" and "Brother's Keeper" CDs at work as well.

I admire his honesty, his openness and his humility. He was real, his music is incredible, his lyrics are breathtaking. He had a wonderful way of describing ordinary things - "I can see the covenant colors the sun and the rain have woven against the blue of the sky" - the most beautiful description of a rainbow I've ever heard. His songs are inspiring, challenging, and I've never heard anything that compares to them.

Thanks Rich, for sharing your music, your life, and your love of

God with us.

Richard Watson

To the family of Rich Mullins,

We at KRMT TV in Denver, Colorado want to express our sadness at the passing of Rich. It has been our privilege to air his music videos on Z-Music. We have received phone calls from his fans and we will air a half hour special featuring his music videos on Tuesday, September 30th. Rich's music greatly touched me. I never tired of hearing Awesome God. Whenever things start to be too much to handle, I think of the message in that song. God bless you and may our God of all comfort help you through your time of grieving.

Kathy Browning

Jesus worked thru Rich's music to get me through a divorce. I finally got to see him in concert with Mitch 8-10-97. Not a day has gone by when SONGS isn't heard by my family since the concert and no, we aren't tired of the praise music. He sure is missed. My Sunday school class was learning MY ONE THING for our Christmas program, my two year old sat down and started singing STEP BY STEP at church thru the microphone and astonished us all. What can I say but Glory to God for the gift of Rich Mullins. Prayers and love to all.

Norma Toussaint

My heart is so broken for you all. While I never met Rich, his music spoke my heart in words that I could never have expressed. I have gained hours and hours of comfort by listening to his songs. He had such deep insight into the things of God and into

the meaning of scripture. My prayers are with you.

Sincerely,
Susanna Laird

Dear Mullins Family,

I am very sorry for your loss. Rich Mullins touched my heart and my spirit many years ago. His ministry of music and scripture based teaching were a wonderful difference in Christian music where many performers do not use the Bible as a basis for their message. Know that he made a difference, and that he was loved by many who did not know him personally, but to whom he spoke to on a personal basis.

"I'll pray for you always,
and I promise you this,
I'll carry on, I'll carry on"

God bless you,
Paige Barr
Westminster, Colorado

We were blessed to have Rich for the short time he was here on earth and want you to know he has touched many lives with his music and lyrics. God Be Close to you.

Tracey-Leigh Kuhne

The Bridge Builder

An old man walking a lone highway
Came at the evening old and gray
To a chasm vast and deep and wide
Through which was flowing a rapid tide

The old man crossed in the twilight dim
That rapid stream held no fears for him
But he turned when he reached the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide

"Old man" yelled a traveller near
You are wasting strength in building here
Your journey will end with the passing day
You never again will pass this way
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide
Why build a bridge on the other side

The builder lifted his old gray head
Good friend in the path I have come he said
There will come after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way
This chasm that has held no fear for me
To that young one may a pitfall be
He too must cross in the twilight dim
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.

My youth minister from when I was growing up died last November and he and Rich were friends. This poem was read at my youth minister's funeral and I think it applies to Rich as well. I can probably speak for countless people that Rich helped to build a bridge for us. Many times I would listen to Rich and his music could lift you up, make you reflective and inspire you all at the same time. His music is something that can't be described with words. I was truly blessed to have been a friend of Rich for about 18 years and to have been able to hear him in concert so many times I'd be afraid to try to number them. He did not allow his 'fame' to change him. Perhaps in this, Rich can serve as an example to us.

I can't help but think that Rich's music will live on forever in this generation and hopefully in generations to come. He has touched the lives of so many.

As saddened as I am at his absence, I am more happy for him. He is now where he belongs. Rich was a special person who touched

the lives of all who ever met or knew him. I can probably speak for all when I say that I'll miss him.

Finally, I can't help but think about a card at my youth minister's funeral. Someone had seen fit to place a 'Congratulations' card at his funeral with the message, "You win." We all know that in all that matters, Rich won and is now enjoying his just reward and is close to the One who was closest to him.

Leave a light on for us Rich. We love you.
Terry Knaul

I've only been to one concert. I was struck by Rich's humility, his incredible musical ability, his sense of humor, and his stories. The illustrations he used to get a point across really hit close to my heart. The next day he graciously accepted an invitation to sing at our church service and sang all the songs he didn't have time for at the concert. He ministered to our congregation as if he had the eyes of God.
amy

Rich's song "Home" helped me get through the difficult times I have faced during my life especially during my mother's fight with cancer and eventual death. Sometimes dealing with those hard times it really helped to have a song which expressed..."If I stand, let me stand on the promise that You will pull me through. And if I can't let me fall on the grace that first brought me to You." He was so good at moving his audience to a closer walk with Christ!

I only met Rich this summer at CIY in Gunnison Colorado, as a sponsor for our youth group. Though our meeting was brief I can't remember when I have been so taken with someone. There is so much

more that I would have liked to talk to him about. He will continue to be a strong influence on our kids (and adults) for some time to come. I give thanks to the Lord for our meeting. As is apparently often the case he made disciples of us as he passed through our lives. If we each can only touch one other person as he touched each of us, imagine what it will be like. My prayers are with his family and Mitch and his family.

Roger Tillier

Wow. I've been reading some of the messages from people who loved Rich and am overwhelmed. He has had such a great impact on the lives of so many people that it's hard to imagine life on earth without him. I find myself catching my breath when I remember that he is gone. His music is part of my soul.

I will always admire his constant faithfulness (Phil. 1:3) to God and the ministry he was given. I am sure his parents had much to do with this. We should all be so lucky to have loving, faithful Christian parents.

For Rich's family, I pray that you will continue to find comfort in Jesus. I realize this isn't your first brush with loss. May you draw ever closer to one another as you draw closer to Jesus in your pain.

As I was reading the messages I noticed countless references to Rich's songs. We can't keep away from them because they speak not only his heart but our own. Do you suppose he waved "Goodbye" from his chariot of fire? And do you remember what Susan said? That love is found in the things we've given up more than in the things that we have kept. Not that we have given him up, but that we can't keep him. He belongs to God.

Here's an entry I made in my journal on September 21: "It comes in waves, the grief. I'll be thinking of something else, then I'll think of Rich and I'll smile. Then I remember he's gone. I catch my breath and hold it. Tears well up in my eyes. I take a few

long slow breaths and sigh them out. Such a precious gift he was. He had incredible insight into human nature and an extraordinary ability to write it down. So vulnerable and honest about his struggles and his feelings. Such musical genius. He spoke my heart. He was my biggest hero and my favorite musician. I am going to miss him."

In the midst of my grief I realize mine is nothing compared to that of those who knew him personally, those he loved. He said something in an interview that I wrote down. "I think everyone who allows themselves to honestly be loved is going to be wounded. Your life is a gift, and out of gratitude to God you should go out there and live. And when it's all over you're gonna be pretty wounded. And I hope that you're hurt because people have loved you, not because they have used you." Rich was a wounded man. I am sure his wounds were of love.

Rich has set us an example of a life lived fully for Jesus Christ. My hope is that his legacy will indeed be one of joy, of compassion, and that his death will point many others to the truth.

Marty Hitchcock

We at The Bridge (WQCK, Baton Rouge) are deeply saddened at the loss of Rich Mullins.

Even though we struggle with what might have been, words yet to be said, songs yet to be sung, we know that Rich has moved on, and we must as well.

He would want us to remember the God he serves rather than himself.

What a truly awesome God He is to have given us, if only for a short time, a man like Rich Mullins.

Keith Lane,

Music Director
The Bridge

I was so heartbroken to hear about Rich. My kid's and I loved him and his music. I don't know if he ever realized this or not but his music was life-changing to a lot of people including myself. If it wasn't for great Christian artists like Rich, I would probably still be listening to some of the music I listened to before I got saved. We loved him and will miss him greatly but I know that we should be rejoicing because he is with the Father now and to know that we will one day see him again makes the grief easier to bear. Our condolences go out to Rich's family and we pray that God will give them peace and comfort at this time. We also pray for healing for Mitch. God Bless!!

Rex Bowen

Empty and heavy, my heart feels such as loss. The pain winds its way into my deepest places. HOLD ME JESUS always made me cry. I loved you Rich. You healed me. I long for you as I should long for Jesus. May your songs continue to lead me home to Him.

Anthony Khalil

I am listening to KLOVE's tribute to Rich Mullins. Praise be to God for giving us such a talented musician. He has touched my life in a special way! Thank you, Rich!

Scott Adamson

ear the Mullins family,

Rich's sudden death has made a huge impact on me. My husband (33 yrs.old) suddenly died 15 months ago. Like Rich, he was a Godly man and a very gifted musician. I am grieving with you. I know that I never met him personally but Rich's music has ministered to me and my 3 children. My prayer for you is to be surrounded with friends to care for you and to help you grieve. Everyone grieves differently and that is how God intended it to be. It is a process but with the Lord's strength, you will get through it. It might seem endless, but rely on Christ, He is our Rock. Write your feelings in a journal, talk to friends, talk to God. Get your feeling out, and give them to God. I think one of the most meaningful things that I have clung onto is that my husband's music will continue to bless everyone that hears it. Praise God that Rich had so many songs recorded and they will continue his legacy. And just think, our loved ones are singing with Christ right now! My 4 year old's favorite thought about her daddy is that he is singing with the angels now! God bless you. You will remain in my prayers.

Debbie Parker

His music introduced me to a new level of true worship! His words stung with truth to the heart of the matter, JESUS, my life is better because he lived! I can only pray that someday someone will say the same about me - because that is what it is all about, JESUS. Thank You Lord for Rich Mullins!

Rick

I was and am a fan of Rich Mullins, and have been feeling pain and loss. Maybe not at the same magnitude as you are, but I miss him and have been battling inside myself at why. But GOD has told me, to just trust him, and let him turn this pain into praise that, what the devil meant for evil, God will use for GOOD. Rich is in Heaven with JESUS and we all will see him there soon when Jesus

takes us all home in the eastern sky . GOD BLESS YOU Family of Rich, and I love you in the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Darren Anderson

Rich's music has and will continue to bless me.

Paula McBride,
Marysville, CA

To you and to Rich's family, I send heartfelt sympathy at his passing. His music meant a lot to me. I couldn't believe it when I heard he had died. I'm so sorry. Many will miss him. We can remember him by helping to continue the work of spreading the Gospel. That obviously meant a lot to him.

Blessings,
Susan Weaver
Ashland, VA

Last month my family and I were able to attend the final concert in Rich's tour with Mitch and This Train in Crystal Lake, Illinois. It was a wonderful, uplifting experience and the frequent lightning flashes through the windows high up behind the stage served as a reminder of the Lord's awesome power throughout the evening. It seemed obvious that these young men had had a great time together and had some bittersweet feelings that their tour was ending. Before the concert began Rich came out and stood behind the back row where we were sitting. My husband turned to him and mentioned how we had enjoyed seeing him a few years ago at Cornerstone and Rich gave us his big grin and said "Well, it will just be more of the same!" God Bless Him! Yes, it was the same--the gospel in song--God's truth, His love, His grace, His mercy, and our longing for Him. Rich's longing is over, thanks be to God. May God comfort all who loved him.

John Jonelis

I have started this note over twice now, and I still have no idea how to express the impact that Rich's music has had on my life. He was much more than a songwriter to me. He was a mentor. I heard him say in concert a couple of months ago that his hero was St. Francis of Assisi. Well, my hero was Rich Mullins. I greatly admire Christians of extraordinary intellect who aren't afraid to think beyond what's accepted by the masses. Rich was like that. He, along with C.S. Lewis, challenged me and awed me with his intelligence, wisdom, honesty, and incredible talent. I know I should be saying that he's in a better place and he's happy now, but at this point I'm not that unselfish. I can't help but wonder what won't be said now that he's not here to say it. What would he have written next, and for the next forty years? And I can't help but feel that the world is not quite as good a place to be as it was with him here. My prayers and deepest sympathy go to his family and friends.

May you be comforted.

Shaye Smith

Clinton, MS

He was named Rich because that's what he made our lives.

I met Rich briefly outside of a coliseum where he performed in Houston a few years ago. He performed with another Christian singer and Rich went on first. We had church in the morning and a couple we were with had kids to get back home to -- about an hour's drive -- so we left in the middle of the second performer's act.

While walking back to the car, we ran into Rich and Beaker. We chatted for a moment, relayed that we loved his lyrics and music,

and then went on our way home, invigorated from the brief encounter as much as from the concert. We went home on a high, and I'm sure Rich wouldn't have understood the reason. We got to have a brush with a great man of God, a quiet mouthpiece for God whose life and song lyrics whispered holy truths as easily as common men chat about the weather.

I'm sure he would never understand why we left in wide-eyed awe of having had our live intersect with his. He seemed to think of himself as getting in the way of what God was saying and doing through him. Much as the talented musician is the one who can make his instrument sing, Rich realized who made him sing. I think that he felt that he limited his Master by his human nature and unintentionally kept God's loving message in check by Rich's own faults and frailties. I hope he also knew how many of us wished that someday on earth the Master could make such pure music with us.

I thank God for Rich and his songs that will be sung generations from now, that praise God and offer a glimpse into his kingdom.

Love and Prayers,
Kevin & Cheryl Jones

Saturday, September 27, 1997

To the family of Rich Mullins:

I offer my deepest sympathy. My family and I are very grateful to all of you for raising Rich to be a man who loved our Lord so very much.

Rich's music ministered to me in many dark and difficult times. I often played it for friends, both Christian and non-Christian, when I lived in Mongolia. It was the only American music I ever saw them respond well to, but they really loved the sound and

message. I got to meet Rich at a concert last month and told him so. He wasn't perfect, but he was God's.

My husband and I first met Rich and Beaker at Indiana Christian Youth Conference. I was amazed at how Rich reached the kids. He and Beaker even held a session to talk to the youth. Rich's music has filled our home ever since.

After that we tried to see Rich anytime he was in the area. We went to the retreat that was held in South Bend. They talked about what love really is and love of God. It was a wonderful weekend.

This last spring we were privileged to see the concert and met Mitch. We missed Beaker, but it is not easy to do everything with a family. When the band performed Creed, it brought the whole house to their feet to praise God together. We made it to the play the next night also.

We last saw Rich at Ft Wayne on the 14th of August. It was very special because we brought our kids with us. Joshua is five and has heard Rich all of his life. He sang right along on Brother's Keeper. We stayed around afterward with Rich, Mitch and meet the new guys. Rich talked for a while and then passed out cookies that someone had made for him.

It is hard to describe how much Rich affected my life. His love of God was real and he showed it to everyone, but it was okay that some may not approve or understand. He showed us where to find the raging love of God. I've always been encouraged to try and love others more because of Rich. It is because of Rich we sponsor Compassion and work with youth at our church. We just want to do what God intended us to do so we can know the love of a God who gave his all for us.

Rich seemed to work so hard at trying to show God's love to others. He will be missed but I am sure that Rich is very happy to be there with our Jesus in heaven. It will be great to see Rich with Jesus someday. Rich left us his music to encourage us

to continue to seek Jesus and do his will.

For now, we just have to somehow try and fill the gap. There are enough of us that enjoyed his music and his willingness to share God's love that we could make a huge impact if we just try to love the way Rich did. Just let our "Awesome God" be our "One Thing"

Thanks to Rich's family, Beaker, Gay, Kathy, Bear, Mitch and all the others who helped Rich. Thank you Rich!

Peace of Christ!

Janet Holland

I only became aware of who Rich was last year when he and the band were in concert in Minneapolis-- I'd heard the music but hadn't placed a face to it until then.

I've been blessed by the music and, more importantly, by the message behind the music. I've also been blessed in that Rich wasn't there to entertain-- no facade, no theology of prosperity, just a flawed searching human who was both greatly talented and yet deeply humble and who wasn't afraid to share himself, his struggle and his God with a bunch of strangers.

God bless you Rich, I hope that there are dulcimers in heaven.

Thanks

G Siems

Praise be to our Holy Father for giving Rich the chance to touch our lives. For all those obscure lines you don't hear until you've heard the song for the 1000th time. The kind of lines that let you know that Rich was struggling too and that he was in the journey home just like me and you. Welcome Home!! Thank You Lord Jesus!

K. Morton

My name is Sandra Bailey and I manage a Joshua's Christian store. It was a sad time to hear of the passing of Rich Mullins. However, I am able to see firsthand the impact he had on so many Christians lives including my own. He was the first Christian artist I ever heard and started me down my path of salvation. It is also a rejoicing time to know that one of our Christian brothers is at home with his Lord. I'm am truly sorry for your loss and will keep everyone of the Mullins family in my prayers. God bless and may time heal your hurt.

Sincerely
Sandra Bailey

I was fortunate enough to see Rich perform at the University of Portland. I'm so glad I went. Rich's songs allowed me to Praise the Lord very openly and sing along with my whole heart. Praise the Lord for Contemporary Christian music and that Rich was part of it! It was CCM that brought me to the Lord and it was Rich's music that helped me grow.

My prayers go out to Rich's family at this time and in the days and years to come. Rich's music had special meaning to me and my family. The CD Winds Of Heaven - Stuff Of Earth was one of the first Christian Cds I bought. And when I heard the song "If I Stand" I was deeply touched. I would listen to that song again and again. Not long after that I had a scrape with death caused by a bad reaction to a drug given to me while I was sick. During my recovery time I had several times I was allowed to spend some time at home for over night visits. When my wife picked me up she had a tape of that Cd set to play that song. It helped me to cope with the things that were going on in my life at that time. In the years since that song has kept a special spot in my heart. I

had a chance to see Rich in concert in Ames IA in 95 and when he sang it I was deeply touched. Great concert. I had the chance to see Rich in concert in Waterloo IA on Aug. 8 of this year. This concert was even better. It was in a small church, and the night was more like a family sitting in their living room singing than it was a concert. I know that Rich is singing at the feet of the God he praised so in all of his songs. And that as Christians we will hear him again when we all are in that great choir. But until then I will miss him very much.

Wally

He did a concert at my church in Bellville, Il in July 1997. We got to help set up and tear down and spend some time really getting to know Rich and the band. He did his little sermon thing and really made me consider working with the Indian schools in New Mexico. I can't tell you how much he touched people at that concert. It is so obvious that he really had God in his life. Everything he did was ALL for the glory of the God he loved. I know he is glad to be home. I am so glad that I got to see him before he died.

Candice Fischer

Rich Mullins is the first person for whose death I've ever shed tears. My heart aches for his family, and though I never knew him personally, I, too, feel a deep emptiness. This past week, I have listened to his music everyday during my 45 minute commute to and from work. I've been amazed at how many of his song lyrics reference going "home." I can just picture what a beautiful and tender homecoming his was last Friday, with Jesus greeting him at heaven's entrance, proclaiming "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Jesus, Prince of Peace, is now holding him forever. Although I lament the fact that I will no longer look forward to buying the next Rich Mullins CD, I rejoice in knowing that he continues to compose and sing his praises to the Lord in heaven.

Ana Katy

To the extended Mullins Family:

As a fellow Christian I have supported Rich for so many years because so often he was able to articulate within the worship of his songs and the sincerity of his compassion for others the love and relationship to the Lord that dwelled within my own heart. In his ministry of music, Rich helped all of us hear and recognize Christ's presence in our own lives and in our world through unabashedly displaying him in his own Life. We see a life that gave so much. A model of surrender that strove to emulate his savior. And in doing so, he brought both encouragement and challenge to all those like myself who ever had the privilege to worship with him or through his music. While your family certainly can be comforted that your loved one is indeed in communion with his creator, I pray that our Heavenly Father will provide a comfort for you as you manage to personal loss of physical interactions with Rich. It is both for his life, and for your comfort that I pray.

In Remembrance,
David W. Hindman

Dear Relative's and Friends of Rich,

I am so sorry we longer have Rich in our presence. I am so grateful for the beautiful songs of praise, thanksgiving, worship, and hope he left behind. Rich's music and the joy in which he delivered his message was truly anointed from our Lord and will always be a source of blessing for me... especially in my recent periods of deep personal losses.

Thank you Rich, I look forward to singing praise's with you to our Lord in His presence, for all eternity.

Jesus Is Lord,
Monty E. Goodell, II
and children, Jarrett, Shannon and Rachel

The God inspired music and lyrics from Rich, were so clear, simple, and moving, that each time I listen to them, they move me, to love, and praise God everyday, in all things. Rich wrote from such a down to earth, and so very real way, that I will miss him dearly. He is with the person he loves, and served obediently. Thank you Lord Jesus for our time with him, his family is in my prayers.....

Gregory Butcher

I've never been to any of his concerts, but I sure love his music. His music is very unique... and it stirs my heart to listen to it, even now when he's dead and there won't be any more wonderful songs coming from God through Rich's heart. I thank God that Rich was here as long as he was... God blessed us richly by this music.

Anne

At a time when I felt rather disappointed with most Christian singers in their approach to this ministry which I felt was a good channel to bring people to the knowledge of Christ, I'm glad to find Rich Mullins is one of the extraordinary ones. Have been most impressed with his ability to bring the message of Christ across in such a unique and creative way and find his music rather different from most people. It is a shock for me to receive the news of his death. While we mourn for the loss of this man whom God had raised, I pray that He would likewise raise more people of Rich Mullins calibre to bring honour and glory to Himself. My

deepest condolences to his family.

Nicole Wong

It was one of the biggest blessings of my life to have spent some time with Rich Mullins; 78 Eaton Wood Green in Dublin, Ireland; a trailer in Window Rock New Mexico; his then home in Wichita, Kansas; a freeway from Wichita to Greenville, Indiana; and then back to a tent in Co. Armagh, N. Ireland. They were not long times, they were not life changing times for Rich but for me their memories and their realities are still so alive that today I feel a deep deep pain and emptiness within my life that in this life I will not get another short time with this unbelievable man.

What we have lost in Rich's untimely passing is much more than flesh and bone. At that moment when he slipped into the presence of his best friend, Jesus Christ, on that road in Illinois, we lost glimpses and clues of truth, an understanding of the wonders and mysteries of faith that no one else in my life has ever been able to articulate. I think of the next five albums that now I will never have the joy of buying, rushing home, listening to and feeding into the bloodstream of my soul. I think of the possibility of having him over to Greenbelt to listen to that voice that recording studios were never able to fully capture. I think of just another cup of coffee where he could throw out from his eccentric, almost through other, but wise wise mind just another sentence that I could chew on for another few lifetimes. I think of how between meetings he'd always forget my name but remember my world and be so interested to catch up and though I was never going to be close to him, how he always made me feel so.

I put on his albums and hear even more lines that drop like depth charges deep within my character. From the beauty and grace of Sometimes By Step, the praise of Color Green and Calling Out Your Name, the joyous peek into his own unique journey on What Susan Said and Land Of My Sojourn to the honesty and tenderness of Wounds Of Love and We Are Not As Strong to the challenge and

correction of Hard and even Hold Me Jesus ("Surrender don't come natural to me"). What a legacy he left us and all the time urging us to see past the singer and take hold of the truth and the God that he so deeply deeply loved.

And I have those personal memories. I can remember, in our Dublin home, the first time I'd ever seen a hammer dulcimer and he played for us a song he'd just written, Land Of My Sojourn, and the instrumental that he would name after our house, 78 Eaton Wood Green. I can remember when he and Beaker left us in their Wichita home without a key or any clue what to do with their dogs, Jordan and Bear, but with a great book collection in which I discovered Chesterton and Manning and a rough mix of A Liturgy, Legacy and a Ragamuffin Band without strings on it - great! I can remember driving him across a couple of states and trying to tap into his mind but he'd answer my questions in one word and then give me an hour on GK Chesterton, Madonna, politics and the naivety of America - I was driving and couldn't take notes! I can remember trying to interview him at Summer Madness in Ireland but he was only interested in the visuals of Star Wars that were up on the screen behind him. I can remember, now best of all, sitting in his trailer in Window Rock, on the very border of Arizona and New Mexico, watching his favourite and maybe the movie that most influenced his whole life, Brother Sun, Sister Moon about St. Francis of Assisi. Maybe in those two hours I got as close to Rich Mullins as you could get.

American writer Frederick Buechner who influenced Rich so much once wrote that a saint was someone who made you feel alive. He would never have wanted the tag, saint. Indeed that was one of the amazing things about him. In a world where success and being a star was the god of the age, Rich Mullins realised that the devil was more interested in those things than God, and his following of Jesus was the upside down discipleship that is such a rare, if not weird, thing in our age - especially if you are as talented as Rich Mullins. However, in Buechner's terms Rich was the one saint I can be sure that I have met in this life. He leaves me the legacy of the vitality and dynamism of his life. Rich Mullins truly is the world as best as I remember it.

BIG MOMENTS (for Rich)

There are sweet moments of grace
and times when saints come touch us
Chance meetings that seem so meant to be
Coincidences far too obvious
And I can hear the water falling
The ocean crash on New England's shore
The brown brick spine of some dirty blind alley
The shaving that fell on the carpenters floor
I can feel that hammer dulcimer move me
That voice proclaim truth and love
Giving me glimpses and clues of this life on earth
And inklings of the promise above
Like just a spec upon my time line
That the son caught to make shine bright
Such big big moments in tiny seconds
Leaving me to follow in your traces of light
How I longed to spend more time with you
Maybe someday that time will come
You've left me a legacy to think on til then
Thoughts to fill my life and then some
Someone said that you know a saint
By how alive they make you feel
Not by how much they show to you
But by how little they conceal
You left us with broken hearts and souls
Our hope is feebly attempting to temper it
We lost so much more than skin and bone
You are the world as best as I remember it.

Steve Stockman

Rich Mullins was blessed by God with a beautiful and unique gift,
which he always used for the glory of our Creator. He was one of

the few Christian artists whose writings in the lyrics of his songs were inspired by the word of God alone and for His glory alone. I shall miss him, but I am confident that he is with the Lord now, and that we shall see Him again someday when the Lord Jesus Christ is pleased to take us Home too. My regards and sympathy to his family and friends.

God Bless,
Rick Rindt
Kankakee, Illinois

In many ways, I feel as though I've lost one of my own brothers. As a growing Christian, his music has always had a profound impact on my life. I was fortunate enough to meet him backstage at one of his concerts a couple years ago. The simplicity with which he communicated the gospel and the conviction with which he modeled his faith had a way of making you examine your own walk with God. Simply put, he was the type of person that just made you want to get closer to Jesus! As I reflect on Rich's untimely death, and all he has meant to me, I can almost hear him whisper, "There's bound to come some tears up in your eyes, but that ain't nothin' to be ashamed of... reach out to Jesus... you'll find He's there."

God Bless,
Rick Rindt
Kankakee, Illinois

I had never met Rich Mullins, but I knew him. He opened his life and his thoughts and put them onto albums to share with the world. His music went right to the center of my life, inspiring and at times rebuking me. Through it all I grew to know a brother in Christ. He affected my life in ways I will never realize on this earth. Rich Mullins was put on this earth for a reason, and he had a gift to use. I doubt anyone would disagree on what his gift was. Rich used God's gift and he used it to the glory of God. He

accomplished that which he was predestined to do, and God met him on a highway in Illinois and took him home. We've lost a brother for the rest of our lives, but we shall see him again... when we get home. Rich, what do the stars look like from there?

Calvin

Hello, My name is David Walls and I live in Sachse, Tx. I had the privilege to see Rich when he came into Dallas. This concert was one of the greatest experiences in my life and by far the best concert that I had ever been to. I remember wanting to see his face because it seemed as though he didn't like to show his face very much. There was a cloud of steam and then I saw him. He was dressed in a pair of jeans and a tee-shirt with no shoes. Rich was a man that did not care much about his image, he just cared about getting the message of Jesus around the world. I can almost remember every song he played at that concert, and I also remember that he let the people that opened the concert for him come back out at the end and sing with him. I will always remember that concert and I will always remember Rich Mullins. He was a living example of what a christian should be.

Thanks for the memories Rich,
David Walls

Rich came to CBN in Va. Beach back in February, 1993 for a songwriters' conference. At the time, I was hosting "Heartsong Magazine" for the CBN radio network. Rich and I spent the better part of a Saturday afternoon together. I was moved by his honesty and his willingness to share what was on his heart. At the time, his current song was "Growing Young." The song was a modern day story of the prodigal son. As he shared his relationship with his father, I was moved to tears. At that time, my father was ill and our relationship wasn't what I wanted it to be. I remember Rich telling me that he would pray for that situation and for me. The

extra time that Rich spent with me inspired and challenged me. I believe the words he shared and the compassion I saw on his face helped me look at myself and work on ways to better open up the lines of communication with my father. Dad passed away two years ago. Before he left this earth, he accepted Jesus as his savior. Our relationship also had time to blossom and grow. Rich Mullins was not only a great singer and songwriter, he was a wonderful human being. The Christian music industry and the world is a better place because Rich was here. May the Lord comfort his family, friends, and all of us who are sensing such a deep loss and emptiness.

Greg Fentress
Princess Anne, MD

I was merely a misguided young man on the wrong road to eternity when I first discovered Rich Mullins. The first song I heard was "If I Stand." In the four or so minutes of that song, my life was dramatically changed. Tears flowed freely as the simple message of God's grace and his unrelenting mercy came to me from that old cassette player. My life has never been the same since. Rich's songs have forced me to think, to laugh, to pray, and to cry. I envy his position now: in the Throne Room of the Awesome God that he so humbly served and so visibly praised while he was with us.

Jason Ford
Conway, AR

Rich Mullins was a great man of God who loved to sing praises to Him. Now he is praising Jesus face to face! Rich touched many lives through his life, music, and through his ministry. He was such a down to earth guy, and those lives that were touched by him, will miss him, but we know that he is where he has always longed to be, with his Maker!

Toni Edgington

Portales, NM

Rich was someone who touched me deeply through his music & lyrics. He was authentic, vulnerable, and always spoke what was on his mind. He wasn't afraid of what people thought of him, which allowed him the creative freedom to take us into new heights. Sometimes existential, yet profound, other times funny and completely laid-back... always Rich. He went out like Elijah...walking with God. Even though it didn't break his heart to say goodbye, we are suffering a great loss, and will miss him deeply.

Darren Sloniger

Elgin, IL

In 1984, I was an awkward teen trying to be cool enough to be somebody. Rich, long before Dove awards and hit albums, was spending time with dear friends at Deep Valley Christian Camp. He was an older "camper" who also gave a little concert on a barely tuned piano with a sticky "D." As always, he talked a lot between songs. Words about life as it is, truths about living this life. The point he made clear was that we are nothing without Christ. We can try to be cool, try to make ourselves out to be something. But we will fail. We must humble ourselves, and attach ourselves to something great, Jesus Christ. Rich was where people are in life and, with all his being, pointed them where they need to be. That week at camp I realized that I needed Christ. My eyes and heart were opened. I became one of Christ's children. Rich was so generous in sharing his life with others. He didn't present his life. He lived his life, struggled openly with what it is to live life. He made real the life of a yet imperfect Christian in a fallen world. He was you and me. He kept pressing on, so that so many others, would too, keep pressing on. Now he is home, and I keep pressing on.

David McNeil
La Habra, CA

From the very first time I heard a Rich Mullins song, I was hooked. I think that I was so spiritually depleted when I first heard him, that his words that were straight from the Father allowed the Holy Spirit to enter me and convict me. I first heard Rich at a time in my life when I was listening to a lot of heavy metal music, and though I denied it, this secular music took a lot away from me spiritually. But it was Rich's pure music and words from God that helped me see God like I have never seen Him before. When I found out that Rich had passed away, I cried. It felt like I was losing my father all over again. Besides my father, who passed away in December of 1994, Rich was the biggest Christian influence on my life, and I never even had a chance to meet him. But I know that Rich now has what he has lived his life for, I know that he will meet my earthly as well as my Heavenly Father, and his songs still fill me with hope and strength that one day I will receive the reward that Jesus Christ has promised me. And whether I go out like Elijah or not, just like Rich sings, it won't break my heart to say goodbye.

Josh Griffin
Jackson, MO

Some of my personal memories of Rich:

The joy he expressed when he got his first recorder. And how quick he picked up any instrument. One week a beginner, the next week he would be making beautiful music.

Going to the midnight "Dollar Flicks" in Cincinnati. Staying over at Rich's apartment which was nearly bare. Rich never had many worldly goods. But what he left behind were treasures beyond measure. His witness will shine in our hearts for many years to come.

Rich never wanted to grow up. I remember the first time we went to a movie about St. Francis of Assisi. That simple man, maybe even a "simpleton" who left all worldly goods behind became Rich's role model. As St. Francis kept that simple goal in front of him, so Rich Mullins

Playing music with Rich was an incredible experience. So much creativity and talent in one man. He certainly found his niche. His ears were tuned to God's leading. He loved life and lived it to the fullest. Maybe that very exuberance contributed to his death, but if he hadn't lived more cautiously, it wouldn't have been Rich.

I think back to the shock of hearing Keith Green's name over the radio that morning so long ago. First disbelief, then shock and grief, then the healing comes. And the resolve to more fully follow ourselves. Selah.

Richard Mullins was our Audie Murphie, our William Wallace. He challenged us to far greater depths than we imagined possible and was our inspiration. Yet, realizing the incredible talent he had been given, he never pointed to himself, but went to extreme measures to keep the focus on Jesus. As we mourn his passing and celebrate our loss, let us keep that in mind, that Rich never wanted "fans" but disciples. Yet never wanting to take the place of the great "Teacher" but only to point us *to* the great Teacher.

Rich, we'll miss you. Thanks for everything. You've been a friend to us all. Give Peter, Paul, Keith, Francis and the rest of the "Saints of old that have gone on before" a big hug for us. And pray for us still down here. Our stories about *your* faith will help keep us strong!

Jon Hagee

Its been a week now. When the radio station paused between Rich's songs to announce the accident. Had to pull over to avoid another. Ten minutes latter I stopped sobbing enough to thank Jesus for giving us a wonderful musician and brother. Rich (on tape) & I sang praise to the Lord and gained His strength while running many miles. We ran across the Grand Canyon, around Mt. Rainier, 50 & 100 mile marathons. Others would comment on my strength, however, it was Jesus who allowed me to walk after my accident, and Rich (through his music) was always the praise and worship leader for the endless hours of running. I made it to one of his concerts in Seattle and found it so encouraging that he was the real thing, a natural, gifted servant who loved singing to the Lord. I could tell he'd be doing this music even if no one listened! You son will be missed.

May the Lord's grace and strength be abundantly yours,
Marshall Crow
North Bend, Washington

In our rush to prepare for a concert we are giving tonight, we gave ourselves a night off last night. I chose to spend mine with a friend and with my son. On the way home from dinner we heard an inordinate number of Rich Mullins songs on the radio. As we sang, my friend began to go on about how lucky Rich was to be with our Lord. I felt puzzled as he began to tell me what had happened. Then I felt ill. How could this have happened? How could one who walked with Jesus so closely and worked so hard for Him and influenced so many lives be taken so soon. I soon began to realize that in my sorrow... in my selfishness of missing the man and his music... in my wondering how many more lives may have been touched by his music that will never be written... I was forgetting that Rich is, right now, where I yearn to be. Rich's legacy will live on forever. Many more hearts will be touched and many lives won over for our Lord. Perhaps though, God simply needed him there more than he needed him here.

I have yet to call my band mates and give them the news. Tonight though, as we perform "Step By Step" once again... we will say a

few words to our audience... and perhaps sing the words with a whole new meaning.

Paul Cole

Farewell old friend. You have touched our lives in so many ways; probably more than you really knew. The words that you spoke made us think, question ourselves, and see the wisdom of God You were not a Prince, but a servant. Your life was simple, but powerful.

I look forward to seeing you again.

Brad

My first thought was "What is the deal with God taking so many cool people (Diana, Mother Theresa) home this past few weeks?" My next thought was how much Rich's music has impacted my life. I saw him once in a church in British Columbia, Canada. He had been scheduled for a concert somewhere nearby, but they canceled, so he gave a free concert in this church instead. That seemed very "real" to me, and I think his genuine love of Christ came through in his music. I hope that I will be in the same choir as Rich when I am called home.

I pray that God will give Rich's family & friends the "Hope to Carry On" through this time of pain and grief.

C.S. Klassen

"What does it mean to be human? I cannot help but believe that it means that we are spiritual -- that we are responsible, and that we are free. That we are responsible TO BE free."

-Rich Mullins 'Higher Education and the Book of Love'

My family and I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rich Mullins. We were deeply saddened to hear of his passing last week. Our prayers go out to them in this time of grief.

While it may be difficult to understand why tragedy strikes, we do know that God causes all things to work together for good. This was evidenced this past week in a personal way. Last Monday night I was listening to one of Rich's CDs, crying and reflecting on why such a tragedy could occur. My two kids, meanwhile, were enjoying themselves dancing to the music. I discussed with my 4-year old daughter that the man who sang this music had just died and was now in Heaven with Jesus. As she began asking questions, we discussed how we can get to heaven and what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross. To make a long story short, she eventually accepted God's plan of salvation that night.

May the message of Rich's music continue on to reach a lost world.

B Chycho

Rich had been my husband's absolute favorite singer for as long as I've known him. We were lucky enough once to get to see him in concert. It was on a Sunday evening, an hour's drive each way, but I remember it as if it were yesterday. We were just thrilled that we even ended up in the very back pew of the church.

I sing and play keyboard (sometimes trumpet, etc.) for the contemporary service at my church. Our senior pastor has a 4-year old son, and 2 weeks prior to Rich's death, Bill (the pastor) asked if we would play "Awesome God" for Taylor (his son). We hadn't practiced it that week, and the leader didn't want to sing it if we hadn't rehearsed. So instead I offered that I could play it post-service and Taylor could come up front and sing with me. We've sung it a number of times, so I already had an arrangement for it etc. and practiced it on my own before church started. Only I forgot to reset the keyboard before church began, and when we started the first song, the instrumentation for "Awesome God"

came out instead of the scheduled first song. Bill explained the story of how it happened during the opening comments and we continued with the service.

After church was over, I got up to play the song for Taylor, only I hadn't noticed that everyone had stayed around. Because of the explanation, they all stayed to hear this 4-year old boy singing, loudly, "My God Is An Awesome God". Taylor was overwhelmed, his dad was; certainly I was to see Rich's song lifted up by a little boy who loves the Lord so much.

We have 3 pastors, but as it turned out Bill was in charge of the service the next week; 6 days before Rich's untimely death. Bill's not the most musical guy, but he knows what he likes. Rarely does he request (especially ahead of time) for certain songs to be played. But as it happened this week, he requested 3 of Rich's songs for us to sing. I'm not even sure if Bill knew who wrote them, much less that they were all from the same individual. We also did something new, and I brought several CD's with me to play for pre-service music. The individual in charge of the sound equipment listened to the dozen or so that I had brought, and decided to play one of Rich's CD's that I had brought with me for the 45 minutes or so before church.

So we had Rich singing to us before church, and then sang 3 of his songs during church. We were planning to drive from Houston, Texas to southwestern Indiana the following weekend and only have a tape player in the car, so my husband set out to copy to tape some of the CD's we have. Needless to say, every one that we have of Rich's were at the top of the list. We set out Friday at noon and listened to tapes for the next several hours until we stopped for the night. Looking back, it was almost surreal. Walter, my husband, talked about what his favorite song was on each tape, I'd talk about my favorite, but mostly we just talked about how much we liked Rich's songs because they were so unique and didn't sound like mainstream contemporary Christian music. Don't get me wrong, we have a lot of 4Him, Amy Grant, etc. but I know you know what I mean when I say that Rich had a style all his own.

Walter commented that the song he was best known for seemed the song most unlike his own style of music. We arrived safely the next day at my parents' house. It wasn't until Sunday when we were reading the paper that we saw the article in the paper about the tragic car accident. It's just unbelievable. I was so excited the previous week when all these people in church were hearing his music, seeing everyone just really get into it. And in a matter of six days later the reality hit that the songs we had from Rich were the summation of his life.

This might make more sense if I told you we belong to a Missouri synod of the Lutheran church. Extremely conservative, stick to traditions since the 1600's. The fact that we even have a contemporary service is amazing! I spent the last week saying I can't believe that with such an enormously talented man, this is all the music we'll ever hear of him. I think I'm finally able to say I'm SO glad we have the music that we do from him. If it were not for grace, we might not have ever had the opportunity to hear him sing at all.

Barbara & Walter Boone

Although I never met rich, I was on the same wavelength sometimes. His music has touched me and helped me get out of my valley. I know he's shining like a candle in central park right now!! My prayers are with you.

God bless.

Gale

I have experienced much loss in the last two years of beloved spiritual brothers who were, "taken before their time", if such a thing was possible. One of them was my spiritual mentor who died similar to Rich and he had many of the same selfless traits. At his funeral an elderly lady seen a 35 year old stranger sobbing at her sons casket and said what seems now an almost prophetic word.

"You must be one of Billys' Sunday school boys", she said referring to the years I sat under his teaching as a teenager. She continued, "Billy's race is finished and you must carry on his work here on Earth." The one I went to comfort comforted me. So it is with the news of Riches loss. I feel so unworthy of Gods love and mercy when my devotion to Him is measured in the light of a life like Rich Mullins, beloved mentor Bill Huff, and Gods servant, my uncle, Bill Martin. My prayer is that the seeds of selfless service and unconditional love we have seen planted by Rich that has been demonstrated by the outpouring of grief by so many people will cause us to reach for that standard. May God bless Rich's family and comfort us all. Only He can.

BMP

In reflecting over the past week what Rich's life has meant to me, I am left with nothing but the fact that he was a first-rate example of the Christian/Human experience. His tireless and challenging desire to glorify God through his music and missions has inspired me to dig deeper into my own realm of impact in a needy world. I am deeply saddened at our loss and look forward to singing with him in heaven. Even though I never met him personally, I miss him. My nine-year-old daughter, Anna, comforts me with, "well Mom, that makes sense, you never personally met Jesus [in the physical sense] and you miss him too..." I think that says it for all of us. May God bring peace and healing to both Mitch and to Rich's friends and family - and to us, the Body of Christ.

- Ellen Rohwer, Wheeling, IL

I live in Pennsylvania, I'm married with 3 children and just turning 40. Over the last 10 years the music and witness of Rich Mullins has been a big and important part of my life. I'm so sorry for the loss, especially to those closest friends and

family, however please know we all will all meet again.

II Cor 4: 16-18.

May God bless.

Bob Auld

While I am deeply saddened by his passing (and he did not truly die, his existence just changed state), I also am happy. I am happy because he now has the joy which he wants everyone else to experience, the joy of being in heaven with God. I am also glad that, in a sense, we still have him with us, in his tapes, CDs and videos, which spelled out so much of his heart, and drew us all closer to God.

May God bless his family, and keep them forever in His hand. May He comfort them with the knowledge that He loves them greatly.

In Christ,

Darryl

Through their music, Rich and the Ragamuffins have been my Christian brothers who have helped me almost daily follow Colossians 3:1-2.

I will be praying for you,

Ann in GA.

Rich, though he didn't know it, helped me through some of the toughest times in my life.

His song with the lyrics, "Hold me Jesus, for I'm shaking like a leaf, You have been my King of Glory won't You be my Prince of Peace" saw me through many a night of horrific panic and anxiety attacks.

I am now set free by the Power of God from this terrible sickness,
but I look back and thank God for Rich Mullins and the help he was
to me.

Thanks!

Mary

Dear Mullins family,

I and my family have embraced God's truth via Rich's songs for the
past 7 years or so. Every time we take a trip in the car we put
on Rich's music, because it always made us feel free. My
daughters practically know every word and certainly is storing
God's word in their heart. We also just suffered the loss of my
mother-in-law who, like Rich, was a true servant of the Lord. We
take comfort only in the fact that they are in the presence of
their dear Lord. It has also occurred to us that Rich has been
called home to ready the Lord's worship team.

God Bless,

Brian, Karen, Heather and Sarah Lucy
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Family and close Friends of Rich,

Rich shook my heart as someone who kept reminding me of what's
important in this life and how His love is just aching to grow us
into the next. Thank-you for the rearing, companionship and love
that you modeled to Rich during his time with you. Thank-you that
you released him to serve God as radically and honestly as he was
called to -- thank-you for your testimony to us as you release him
now into God's very presence. May we run onwards as Jesus and
Rich himself would want us to :)!

Dear Mitch,

Thanks for your ministry and for your fire for the Lord. We're praying for your recovery and that God would be free to do whatever He desires in your life for all your days.

Finding comfort in God's power and promises,
Ondrej, Jakub, Miriam, Ester, & Leos Hron (Czech Republic/Canada)

... death has no victory and no lasting sting. Hallelujah.

It's nice to know God cares so much more than we ever could... My wandering Thou hast counted, Thou -- place Thou my tear in Thy bottle, Are they not in Thy book? (Psalms 56:8 Young's Literal Translation)

words cannot express the emotions i felt when i heard the rich had died and the Mitch had been critically injured. i have just recently started listening to Rich's music, because we in San Diego just recently got a contemporary Christian station. over the past few months i have enjoyed listening to his music on the radio. earth's loss is god's gain. i liken rich to Keith green, uncompromising in his faith and love for god and humanity. it seems that god always takes the ones that make the most of what they have been given by him. Jesus it seems meant the most to rich. i admire the fact that he was unconventional by living on a Navajo Indian reservation. Rich's music and spirit will live on in our hearts. may god bless those who have heard his music and seen him in concert. i pray for his family as well for comfort and peace.

god bless us all that believe in him,
Todd

Saddened by the death of Keith Green yrs. ago, the verse that

gave me peace was "Enoch walked with God;and he was not,for God took him."(Gen.5:24)...I knew God was ready for one who loved Him so,to be with Him...This same verse came to me at the death of Rich. It also made me think, "Lord, you know it took years for me to 'find' someone who's music meant so much to me."..."Oh, do You like it too? Do we like the same guys?... Cool!" :-)

Mike Zoellick

What else can be said? Except thank you Lord for the gift of Rich's life and music. The following is a song that I wrote for another friend that God chose to take home, sooner than I thought He should have. Said goodbye just the other day, to a man who gave his heart away for free. Don't understand why he went away, I pray some day Lord You'll make it clear to me. The tears come easy as the memories, rolling through my mind and down my face. Knowing that I'll never find, anyone who could ever quite replace. The tears I shed are not for him, for the place he's in is better than can be believed. But for those who he left behind, for all those he made feel like family. There comes a point in every life, when reality comes too close to avoid. We try to force things our own way, but we never make it far without the Lord. There's one hope left within my soul, and in my heart left one prayer I plead. That one day I'll be half the man, as this one that You've taken home from me. I'll fly away O'glory, I'll fly away. When the dead in Christ shall rise, we will meet them in the skies and fly away.

Said goodbye just the other day, to a man that gave his heart away for free. Don't understand why he went away, I pray someday Lord You'll make it clear to me. I rejoice in the knowledge that some day soon, I will get to meet Rich and come to know him in a way that I never could have here. So I will say goodbye, until the day of the Lord.

Brian

I was saddened to hear about Rich Mullins. My heart and prayers go out to his family especially his Mother, brothers and sisters. Rich's music was from the heart, his lyrics showed his love for his Savior and he always glorified God. He is now home with his Lord whom he loved so dearly. He will be missed

Michael

Peace, Love, and Freedom

When it all comes to an end will get to see are family, friends, and are brothers and sisters.

Love ya! Keep Praying~
Jim Henderson

I never met Rich, but feel a tremendous loss at his death. I went to one of his concerts about a month ago in Milwaukee, WI. I can't even express how Rich's music has affected my life.

God gave him a tremendous gift and he used it with all his heart and soul. This is not a tragedy, but a VICTORY!! He has gone to the Home that he longed for ("if i weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his Home..") Thank you God, for Rich and the time that you allowed him to be with us. We are different because of him, you used his music to strengthen our faith and show us the joy that we have in You.

I began listening to CCM my first year of college. It was new to me and I couldn't believe what I was missing! I grew up in a rather conservative Christian church where I wasn't exposed to this kind of music. I checked out a few CD's from our library, one of them being Rich's, "if I stand" instantly became my favorite song and still is. I joined a campus CCM group that same

year and cannot express how the experience has changed my life. Now, five years later (and still in college!), I am finishing a music major and someday hope to touch people's lives through CCM.

I can't wait to meet Rich (and everyone else!) in heaven! Can you imagine the music in heaven?? The music that we have here is EARTHLY. We have no idea what it will be like. Imagine that the most beautiful and most meaningful music we have is only one chord in God's music. I can't wait!! Thank you Jesus for giving us that hope of eternal life with You!!

Sarah Kutz

Rich Mullins was an inspiration to many. His prophetic words and AMAZING talent in music was phenomenal. I know he is in heaven. God wanted him to sing with his angels. He will be watching over all that take those steps or leaps of faith, with those who sing for the glory of God. My prayers are for the family and friends of Rich. I never knew him personally but with every song I heard his voice proclaim, I felt I was beginning to.

Gary Pick

Just a note to tell you the effect Rich had on my life. Several years ago I was about as far from my God as I could get. One evening, for some reason, I turned on ZMusic and they were playing a video called Here In America by someone called Rich Mullins. His music pulled me into the message of his song - that God loved me.

I had never been to a Christian concert, but when I found out that Rich was coming to Morris Hills Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN. I immediately made plans to go. My wife and I both agree that this concert was the best we have ever been to.

A few years later, Rich came to Birmingham, AL. My wife gave me tickets as a birthday gift.

When i was adrift on a stormy sea, Rich was my lighthouse. I never met him personally, but he pointed me home. I will miss him.

May God bless you in this time of sorrow.

Don Dodson

My dad died suddenly on September 17, 1997 at 9:15 p.m. A few days later, in the midst of this, my sister heard that Rich Mullins had died. Mother Teresa, too, went Home recently. I thank God for the gift of Faith, because, despite all this sadness for us here on this side of eternity, we have found joy in imagining Heaven's rejoicing over all the faithful sons and daughters returning Home. Is it odd to feel a wee bit of jealousy along with grief, sadness, joy? My dad, Rich, Mother Teresa have met Jesus face to face! I'm sure they recognized Him immediately, after recognizing Him in their brothers and sisters for years and years.

+ Eternal Rest grant unto all of them, Lord, and let Your Light shine on them. May God grant us strength in accomplishing our tasks on earth, in His Vinyard, before He calls us Home for the celestial Reunion.

E Brady

God used the man we call Rich Mullins mightily. As I selfishly began to continue with this message I realized my fault. Forgive me. I did not know Rich personally. I send my deepest sympathy to his family and friends. I do believe though, we will see him again, only this time in the Paradise of the One who made Rich, and me! Remember.....

Reatha Valera

...I'm a little surprised at the intensity of my reaction to his death. I just can't stop crying. I never met him, personally, or even attended one of his concerts, but his life and his music have touched me so deeply I will never be the same. In addition to his musical artistry, the honesty, humor, delight, despair, passion with which he wondered at this life we live with God, was so real. I can only say that his words are alive. This barefooted bard painted pictures with his music and his poetry that reached into the corners of my soul, met me wherever I was and prodded me toward Jesus.

...I admire the beauty of his gifts, but moreso I admire his humble, relentless pursuit of Christ. Time and again a sentence in an article or a line in a song would admonish me, challenge me, inspire me, remind me to stop worrying about all that stuff and just "Be God's." We stray, we stumble, we fall, we get scared and tired and angry, but "step by step" we follow. I am far from it, but I want to be as real with my faith as Rich was with his.

...I know Someday I'll get to see a Rich Mullins concert and shake his hand and tell him how groovy he was, but right now my heart is broken...one of my heros is gone...he quietly slipped off stage while my eyes were closed...man, I'm gonna miss him.

Thank you for this place to share these thoughts and read the thoughts of others who have been touched by Rich's music and ministry.

Maranatha!
Dawn Wyatt

My husband and I have loved praising our King with Rich Mullins on

the radio/CD/tape for several years now. His music is good for listening to in the outdoors. As we live in Colorado, "The Color Green" and many others on that album have and will continue to bless us as we go into the mountains, and as we gaze upon God's glorious creation.

His humility in concert as we went to see and hear him in Chattanooga, TN at a church, and his dress was humble, and he drove up to the line to get in to the concert with his dog and talked to people in the line, amazed us!!!

We will miss further music, and a prayer will be lifted on the behalf of his family!!! Praise God, though we often don't understand His ways, that Rich is with his Father!!! My husband and I were camping this morning (in the mtns.), talking about Rich's death, and how it could have just been that God said Rich has done a good work for Him, and He was ready to hold him in His arms, as the song says "Hold Me Jesus." He is holding His precious and faithful child. As many have stated, we will see him again one day if we are faithful, too.

(John and) Nikki Hammel

Encounter at a Wisconsin Rest Stop

Whoever thought a pink elephant with shades would lead us to this place... I kneeled to set the camera, looked up and saw his face. It had to be a dream, I've dreamed of it so long, But there he was in front of me The man who writes the songs. "I'm a big fan", I said He smiled at me so sweet "Have a cookie", he said as he offered me a treat He laughed, it was a good laugh, beautiful like his songs He made us feel like friends so easy, like we belonged. We took pictures and talked a while then it was time to go But this wasn't a chance encounter, somehow in my heart I know I'll see this man again whose music thrills my soul (To buy him lunch at Taco Bell soon became my goal). I don't believe in coincidence...

I believe in fate Goodbye dear Rich, we'll meet again
When I too reach Heaven's gate.

R Buss.

As a "baby Christian" I had just discovered the music and am still searching for answers. Rich's way with words reached me and inspired me. I will try to pray but my inconsistency is my problem. I really learned a lot from him and will never forget him.

KM Nesco

What a difference Rich Mullins has made in countless lives. This is terribly sad yet joyful at the same time. Remember that "we mourn not as those without hope". It seems to me that Rich Mullins strived to live out Paul's exhortation in that "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21) And it is an encouragement to this Christian girl. In the words of the famous hymn...

"Sing the wondrous love of Jesus sing His mercy and His grace, In those mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place. When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be when we all see Jesus we'll sing and shout the victory!"

We'll miss the light the Rich cast, but rejoice in knowing he is at the feet of the blessed Savior now.

Kelcey Hall

Please accept my condolences. I was shocked and saddened to hear of Rich's death on weekend. I didn't know him, and I never had

the chance to see him in concert. God certainly used his music to influence me as a young Christian, though. My prayers are with you and your family.

Rob Clements,
Vancouver, B.C.

Rich's music has ministered to me in some dark times, providing hope, encouragement, genuineness, and honest faith in the midst of struggles. I had the privilege of meeting him when he played at my church in Columbia, SC in 1991 and again a year later. His humility and genuineness were refreshing. His depth of love for and faith in God were inspiring. He will be missed, and yet what a glorious thought that he is revelling in the presence of God forever!

Patrick Connelly

Rich closed his eyes in death to this world and in the same instant opened his eyes in the very presence of the Christ he fervently and unreservedly served. How exciting to be experiencing the reality of actually being in the very presence of Christ the almighty, the sovereign God of the Universe. Now he KNOWS that this world was not his home..we rejoice with you, Rich for you are where we all so desperately long to be. The message for us in Rich's life is that for the short while we live here, we focus on living, loving and humbly serving the Bread of Life to others as our brother so faithfully did. You are safe in the arms of Jesus, Rich!

Rebecca Riley

Rich was a God given gift to many. Many people were touched by his music. I and 3 of my siblings and 2 of my cousins all have

been at a point where Rich's music has given us new hope, faith, and love. Two of my brother and a cousin were going to see him at Tabor College last weekend. It was hard to hear. Thank You Lord for the man, Rich Mullins!!! We are praying for all involved!!

Daniel Lynch
Acton, MA

if you had the choice, right now, to die and be with Jesus or to live your life and then die and be with Him later, which would you choose? i'm almost positive of rich's answer. he's gone, and he's still teaching me about perspective and my relationship with my Lord Jesus.

delphine poellot

Rich helped me grow big and strong through some tough times. I can only hope to help someone as much.
James

I don't know what to say when it comes to these things, but I did want to say that I have been deeply touched by Rich Mullins and his songs. I admired his humility, and dedication to God. I have been inspired and challenged in my faith. He was an incredible person with a heart that beats for God, and he probably has no idea how many have been touched by God through him. Thank you Rich, for giving to the Lord.

Deanna Mann

Many people are mourning the loss of such a wonderful man. But

the hardest thing that we must try to remember, is that we should be praising God that a man such as Rich has finally gotten what he worked for all of his life. All of my thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Rich, and also the family of Mitch as he continues to heal. I also send still more prayers to God, praising and thanking Him for sending Rich to us for such a short but wonderful time. PRAISE JESUS FOR RICH!!!!!!

Steve Saffle

I never new him personally, but his music touched me deeply. It mirrored my own struggles and victories in my walk with the Lord. I could never put them into words like Rich could! I thank God that He gave us someone like Rich to inspire and encourage us, if only for such a short time.

A friend in Christ,
Kathy Coyle

I simply want to say that Rich has ministered to me in multiple ways through his music. I attended one of his concerts and was amazed by his humble presence. I know that I cannot say anything to ease your pain and sorrow, but I am truly sorry for your loss. Please know that Rich was and is a special light in the Father's eye. May God richly bless you as you carry on.

Robin Miles

I will miss him much his music had a profound effect on my life. He can sing his praises to the Master in person now.

In Christ
Joe Moser

I heard the news while on the way to work last Saturday. I was shocked to learn of it. I have a vivid memory of a concert he was at here in the Houston area several years back. He sang Awesome God! He had all of us join in! KSBJ, our Christian station here had the concert, and a friend in Christ and I were working Security for that concert on the corners of the stage area to back stage. We both sang Awesome God, and we both shared our experience of this event afterwards. It was a great night!

Rich was in my top 10 list of Favorite Christian Artists and his songs are among my all time Christian music songs, of which I have been listening to for about 27 years now.

Thanks,
David Dunn
Pearland, Texas

I first encountered Rich's music shortly after becoming a Christian in the summer of 1996. I attended his concert here in Green Bay this summer and I really enjoyed the experience. My wife had taken ill that day, but she insisted I go on my own anyway. I am glad I did. Mitch McVicker opened for Rich and I was incredibly impressed with his music and musicianship. I pray for his recovery. I will miss Rich and his music very much even though I never met him in person. I am deeply saddened by his passing and I look forward to meeting him and playing music with him someday in heaven.

Steven Kopischke

Rich Mullins was a true source of inspiration for me when I became a truly, dedicated christian my Junior year of high school. What fascinates me is how music is the key to bringing walls down.

Rich did that for me in his music as well as allowing me to do this with others. I continually use his music for my non-christian friends. His music is a great tool for witnessing. It has also been deep encouragement and passion to continue my walk with God. I am so glad that he is in heaven and I will miss his chance to continue to write music and sing for us. God gave the world many special people with talents and I am glad that Rich was one of those people who obeyed and enjoyed his gift. Thank you, Rich for giving to the Lord. ;)

Dionne Melton

Praise God for giving us 41 years of Rich Mullins. Praise God for giving him a wonderful gift. And Praise God for Rich Mullins utilizing his gift from God.

September has been a "tragic yet rewarding" month for the Christian World. The tragic death of Princess Diana, the death of Mother Teresa, the earthquake in Italy and the death of Rich Mullins. I don't want this to seem like he was a saint - he was a man of God trying to do God's work with the God given talents he had. Likewise, Mother Teresa and Princess Diana. All have made a difference in the lives of many and will always be remembered. Let us take time to stop our own "pity party" (mine included) and Thank God for the life of Rich Mullins and for the legacy of music he leaves behind. He may be gone but he will never be forgotten. The rewards of this month are in the knowing that all 3 are home with God and are keeping the watch for each of our own "homecomings". We will see them all again.

All my thoughts and prayers are for the Mullins family and the McVickers family. Their lives will be forever changed and may they all come through this with a greater relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Peace of Christ to you all.

Nancy Gray

Rich Mullins fan since "Hold Me Jesus" was released.

I was never much of a CCM fan...I'd always rather dug the alternative variety of Christian rock, etc. But Rich Mullins was different. His was not the music of bumper sticker slogans, pat answers and shallow faith. His music spoke of the struggles, the wonder, the human-ness of the Christian life. It also spoke beautifully about the God we can know. I liked "Liturgy, Legacy" the best. It had a sound like it had been recorded in a big, open room amongst friends, rather than in some cold, sterile studio. I liked it so much I turned it on to one of the most discriminating music listeners I know...my mom. She loved it, and it was a great joy in my life the night I took her to see Rich in concert. It was her first Christian music concert, and somehow, even though we were seated way back in the back, I got the sense that Rich knew she was there and he made it really special for her. I'll always be grateful to him for that.

I'll always be grateful to him for his simple, honest, wonderful life that he shared through his incredible music and writings. Only recently, my pastor and I were at the Cove, Billy Graham's Training Center in N.C. We were checking out the beautiful chapel they have there, and as we entered the sanctuary, I noticed a dulcimer up front. I told my pastor, "Man, wouldn't it be awesome if Billy Graham preached this weekend and Rich Mullins led the worship on that dulcimer?!" Awesome indeed! Thank you, Rich. Thank you, Lord, for letting us have him down here for a while. The world's a little heavier without him, but I know we'll see him again....and it will be under much better circumstances, believe me! Praise the Lord!!!

Jane Gruber

Thank you for bringing Rich into our lives. We have lost 3 christian young men in our community within the past 2 years. I

am sure they were waiting to welcome Rich into the gates of Heaven.

As I heard the news of Rich's death, I cried in remembrance of one of these young men - Mike Pettet. He loved Rich's style of music. I cry at our tragic losses and your personal pain. And I cry when I hear the music, because I will forever miss Mike.

But I trust in the Lord, and know that he will use my pain to his gain, I pray that in time, you will allow him to do the same with yours.

Karen Smith

I am 41, the same age as Rich. I pastor a small Baptist church in upper east Tenn. My 16 yr. old son and I believe Rich Mullins was the best songwriter in the world. I have grieved with much tears in the passing of Rich Mullins. He was scheduled to be in our area in October, at Milligan College. The impact of his music on my life was due to it's unvarnished truth and the ability to put man where he belongs and God as kind and supreme. We will never forget Rich Mullins and long for the day when we meet in the Master's house. I too can say, "it won't break my heart to say goodbye".

Jackie Bradley

I never heard as much about him as I do about all the big stars, the Michael W. Smiths and Steven Curtis Chapmans, but everything I heard of him and from him was incredibly uplifting in the Lord. His talent and his unique perspective and way with words will be sorely missed.

I have recently taken up playing the guitar (a month and a half ago!), and was overjoyed to find that "Step by Step" and "Awesome God" were so easy to play on guitar... I shall be practicing

those all the more, and as Mr. Mullins is among that cloud of witnesses I hope he'll enjoy this girl's humble attempts to reach his quality of praise to God and honesty with God--and I know that he's on the praise and worship team up there, so I'll look forward to singing with him in another fifty years or so (or sooner).

Virginia Kathleen Cailleteau

Rich Mullins was my lyrical hero. He saw things just a little bit clearer than others around him in Christian music. He seemed to engage the Kingdom of God a little more deeply. When I listen to his words, sometimes it's as if the veil between earth and heaven somehow grows thinner. I will miss his spirit and his way of seeing God. I heard about Rich's accident while driving to church Sunday morning. They played "All of the Way My Savior Leads Me" (I don't recall the exact title at the moment) and my spirit cried out in joy. It was as if I could see him singing before the Father these songs that I listen to here on earth, and that very fact lent them a deeper anointing. I will miss Rich.

I met a girl in a bookstore yesterday who had just discovered Rich's music. Needless to say, there was none to be had. We talked for a long time about Rich, missions, what God was doing in our lives, and even the fact we both remember where we were when we found out Keith Green died 15 years ago. I happened to have Liturgy, Legacy and a Ragamuffin Band on tape in the car. I tried to give it to her (I have the CD at home) but she wouldn't take it. In the end, she wanted it badly enough that she borrowed it and a scrap of paper with my phone number so she can eventually return it. Driving home I thought about how good it felt to have fellowshiped like that and to have been able to encourage a complete stranger who also happened to be a sister in Christ. Perhaps that conversation would never have happened two weeks ago but because of Rich, I was blessed and I hope she was as well. I expect there to be much more fruit like that to come from Rich's life. I can't wait to get to know him better someday.

Andrew Giddings

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.

(C.S.Lewis: The Problem of Pain, p. 52)

Hello, I wanted to take a moment to remember you in my prayers. I have been listening to Rich Mullins music for many years. I have also been blessed to see him perform live on occasion. His music has inspired many like me, and will continue to do so. I pray peace and rest for your family.

May God Bless You Always

Tim & Christy Edsell

Fairbanks, Alaska

He was a great example to our children of today. His music, his walk with God. He will truly be miss, we can only hope he prepares a way for us."Step by Step to Our Awesome God in heaven" All his music touch all of us. And for those of us that met him, we were truly blessed. Thank you Rich. And hurry back Mitch. We love you.

Danny & Dani Longo

to rich mullins family:

thank you for instilling in rich a faith that lasts forever....he will never be forgotten...his music will continue to touch lives to the glory of the God he loves.... he is now with mark heard, keith green, and king david.... singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and dancing before the Lord... my heart aches with the longing to be there.... i never knew him... only thru

his music... he was truly a man after God's own heart

tho the rain falls....down tho the wind blows....cold tho my
world..is falling in around me i still believe

shannon darling

Sunday, September 28, 1997

One Friday night Rich Mullins opened his eyes and he was in the presence of the Lord God. That is so exciting and wonderful and sad. To know that Rich has gone home to be with the Father...makes me smile. Yet, his loss to a world that needs more people like him is very sad. He was certainly light and salt to this dark place. I pray for comfort for his family and his friends. And I am grateful for the legacy that was left. God smiled on Rich, and I know that when Rich opened his eyes that Friday night God said to him..."Well done, good and faithful servant".

Michelle Premuto

He impressed us all by saying so simply what we all felt but couldn't express because it is so complex. I never met Rich, or even got to his concerts, but I felt his 'realness' through his music, and like so many others I'm sure would have felt totally comfortable to sit down and talk like old friends at first meeting. Somehow he felt more like a friend than an artist. Anyway, until the day comes when we do meet for the first time, and do talk like old friends, his music will challenge, comfort and remind us all.

Paul and Rachel Dettmann
Victoria, Australia.

Rich wrote some fantastic songs. All his music and lyrics were more than meets the eye, and always more that could be discovered. I would have loved to have met him, but sort of feel I know him because his songs tell a lot (Though I did think Aiden was his son) God really did bless Rich with many gifts and blessed us all with Rich himself. Gods ways are not our ways. It is hard to understand why God had other plans for Rich, but we trust him, even though it is hard. We are praying for you all at this time that God's peace and love will surround you.

God Bless.

Michelle Dettmann

These are words I wish I had said to Rich Mullins but never had the chance. For the past six years since I became acquainted with his music it has been a constant companion and comfort. It seems that no matter what I would be going through at the time there was a song of Rich's that put into words what I was feeling. I don't understand the gift that he had that he could speak in such deep ways what I was going through but I am so grateful. When I heard of his going "home" I wept and I'm walking through a time of mourning that I don't entirely understand.

How can someone become so precious to you when you haven't spent time with that person? It may be selfishness but I know that my tears are for the lack of Rich's presence in this world, for the songs that he would have written and for all he would have continued to show us.

My husband and I are missionaries and at the time we are serving in Siberia where we have been for four years. This spring we happened to be in the US for a time of rest and I remember telling my husband that if I could see Rich Mullins in concert before we left that I would feel our rest had been complete. That day friends of ours called to say that Rich would be in Grand Rapids

on May 6th if we were interested. I felt it was a gift from God and our evening there at the concert truly was a blessing I'll never forget. Others have said, what I can testify to, that Rich in humbleness almost was invisible on stage in his glorifying the Lord and gift of music.

He left a great gift to this world and his compassion for others, his heart for God, and his quietness of spirit challenges me to arrive at the gates of heaven and be welcomed in the same way I'm sure he was. It must have been a special "day" there! I just wish so desperately that he was still here and I wish so desperately that I could understand why he isn't. I do trust in that the Lord had decided Rich could now do more for Him in heaven and that his ministry on earth was done.

My prayers are for his family, for Mitch and for all of us who feel the loss of a Singer-warrior and Poet-of-Poets. "when you find something worth believing that's a joy that nothin could take away and so we meet again after all these years?" Heaven will be a true reunion.

In thankfulness to God,
Laurinda Douglas

His music so richly touched me over the years. I am truly sad that his insightful lyrics, wonderful melodies and positive example is gone. Thanks Rich. You will never know how many lives you touched

Douglas Brown Mirabel,
Quebec, Canada

With shock and sadness we received the news of Rich's death. Our loss is Heaven's gain. Our prayers go out to his family and many friends, and for recovery and healing for Mitch. We can't help

but think that Rich is ministering face to face to the One he cherished the most on his short earthly journey.

Rich & Liz Wanser

I only recently discovered the music of Rich Mullins. But, I feel like it's been the inspiration I have needed all my life. My life was touched with my greatest joy in finding him and my greatest sadness at losing him. I will never be the same and I hope he is happy with our lord.

Marie Delahunty

It is painfully clear that Rich Mullins' impact within the body of Christ has been enormous. His songs have made lasting imprints upon the lives of believers for over a decade. "Awesome God" and "Step By Step" are regularly sung by congregations across the country. Other artists have reaped the benefit of his composing and performing skills, from the earlier days of Amy Grant's career to the modern sounds of Third Day. One of my own first memories of Rich Mullins includes being brought to tears after hearing the song "These Days" from his debut album so many years ago.

I suspect, however, that what Mr. Mullins would want us to do at this point is to take the focus off of him and celebrate the God he so earnestly sought to love, worship, and understand. Today is an age where we are so easily tempted to place individuals on pedestals. Certainly there are few people more deserving of such an honor as Rich Mullins. But if we are to truly honor him, we must hear the underlying message which was so prevalent in his music; a testimony that honored God above all else, a legacy that recognizes the frailty of our own lives and glorified the Lord of all life. His presence in public life--rather, his display of Christlike humility despite his popularity--was a living example of such a legacy. None of his albums may have gone platinum; his touring schedule may not have landed him in Madison Square Garden

or Wimbley Stadium; but the rewards he now receives from his heavenly Father greatly exceed what fading accolades the media or popular culture could ever conjure up. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Let us not forget the legacy Rich Mullins left behind. It is a legacy of truth, of real faith, and of what Jesus can use each and every one of us to do to serve His Kingdom.

--Glenn R. Molina

Rich touched many people with his music, we are all very sad to see him leave this earth but the one thing that all of us do know is that he is in a much better place with his Creator. I'll never forget singing Awesome God in church for a youth service one Sunday and just realizing how our God is an awesome God. Also the other song I will never forget is Sing Your Praise to the Lord, a friend and I were listening to it on the way home from another concert the night after Rich's death. He did a great job of singing praises. I never saw him in concert but I'm sure I will see him in Heaven some day. You'll always be remembered as an awesome man of God Rich.

Tara

I want to thank the Lord and Rich's family for the music, the ministry, and the way his work here on earth inspired so many of us believers in Christ. In my 10 years as a believer, Rich's music has been some of the most meaningful and heart-stirring that I have listened to. Most recently, the song "Let Mercy Lead" has spoken to me as my wife and I just had our first child. Rich had such a special way of calling out to God for His grace and encouraging us to give all we have to Him. I now ask that you, Rich's family, would be able to fall upon the Lord's grace in the midst of your loss.

God bless,
Rob, Donna, and Sarah George

It is a just over a week after I heard the news, and I am still thinking about it, the emotions are still there. I am saddened at the loss, but fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear the music and the message. I first heard about Rich when the video to "The Color Green" late one night after I got home from work. I then bought the album and later got the chance to go to concerts in Wausau, Wis. and Brookfield, Wis. There are volumes that can be said about him, but for me it all comes down to this: he was real, he believed what he believed and his thoughts and his actions centered around his belief. He pushed himself and was never content with sitting in box, but thinking and asking and searching and growing. The Gospel was always first, and he was a brilliant messenger. He will be missed, but his music and the message will live on. I pray for his family and wish them the best through this time.

HT

I had the opportunity to book Rich twice in Manhattan. The first time was with the Sparks, Avenue G, Jeff Sack and a special appearance by Bryan Duncan. This was the concert of a lifetime. It was a blessing to see all these people of God praising the name of our savior Jesus Christ. Not only was this concert a time where I talked to Rich, Beaker and my good friend Jeff, I was ministered to by the Sparks and Bryan. Rich did this concert for free. It was a blessing to have this young man in Manhattan Kansas doing a benefit concert for a Christian Radio Station. What a great man and a great ministry. Please be assured that of all the people who should be remembered, it is Rich. Because of his passion to help people and to minister to them. Thank you God for Rich's life on earth and we will truly miss the ministry he was called into.-

Tim Dykes,
Manhattan, KS

I just want to thank Rich's mother for raising such a compassionate, uncompromising Christ-centered young man. Thank God for men like Rich & thank God for mothers like Mrs. Mullins, who was such a great influence on her son. One of the things the Lord used in my life as a new believer to grow me up was her son's music & the example of his life. I will daily pray for you, Mrs. Mullins, and your other two sons and Rich's friend Beaker & many other close, dear friends. I know how deeply you will miss this extraordinary man of God.

Thanking the Lord for his life,
Charlotte Moore,
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Dear Mullins Family,

My heart is so full, my eyes full of tears. Such loss! Such loss!

How can I describe to you how much I loved your son? He was as close to me as any could have been in spirit, though I never met him. His music touched the very core of my being. I imagined so many times meeting him and knowing him heart, soul and mind. I longed to converse and share life experiences with him. He was so real. Very much as I see Jesus, he was to me a humble, godly, spiritual man with very human feelings.

I had asked God to give me the opportunity to wash his feet some day. Now, that will never happen. But it would have honored me greatly to have washed his feet, a man who was a servant to all. The way he spoke of loneliness, and joy, often in the same sentence, is forever etched on my heart. I, too, am celibate, and

the intimacy with which he sang and wrote with regard to his own desire for love and companionship, made me want to marry him, myself.

I loved him. I will never forget him. Because of his death, I will be allowed to play his music at my job for the first time in the presence of people who don't know Jesus. But they are allowing me this because I have shared my grief over his passing and they are now curious about hearing his work. Glory to God in the highest...Rich, I will see you soon enough.

Now that you are gone, the past for me will only be, "the world as best as I can remember it..."

love,
Tess

Rich compared himself to Elijah, but I always saw Rich's similarities to Paul. He wasn't ashamed of the gospel, but proclaimed it day and night. He chose ministry over marriage, knowing a wife would be a distraction. Mostly, however, Rich allowed God to speak through him. He was a vessel, and his songs were pure scripture.

Chelsea Caivano

To quote my radio disc jockey: "...we on earth have experienced a great loss, but Heaven has greatly gained..."

I will miss Rich and the impact he has left will stay forever.

Kate

On the day I found out that Rich was gone, my best friend and I

cried together over the loss of man whose heart and life and music has touched us more than words could ever express. I have been to many of Rich's concerts and I went to them as much to hear what he had to say as to hear his music. His zeal for the truth no matter how hard it can be has encouraged and challenged me over and over. Heaven's gain is our loss, for a time, but I look forward to meeting him when we are all home. Rich's family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers, as is Mitch McVicker. We love you Rich, thanks for all you gave to us.

Anne Connolly

We have lost a good singer! I wish I had heard him in concert. My sympathy goes out to his family in this loss, we met his brother at a wedding in Tampa last year (our daughter was a bridesmaid and Dave was a groomsman at Shannon's and Jason's wedding) and if Rich was anything like his brother, his mom should be proud! I'm thankful for his music he left us!

Kenneth Arnold

I am so sorry to learn of the death of Rich, his music was such an inspiration to me. It was his concert that brought me back to my faith after living in a void for so long. I will be eternally thankful to him and his life as God's messenger. He is missed.

Rick Dawson

Although I, like so many others, never met Rich personally, his music has had a tremendous impact upon my life and my Walk. Through his music, I came to feel that I knew him, because every song was him, and it was from the heart. I've been doing a lot of thinking over the past few days, and although he is and will

continue to be sorely missed, I find it hard to grieve for Rich himself- rather I grieve for his family, his friends, etc.

Also, please continue to pray for the driver of the truck- I pray that if he is not a Christian, he will come to know the LORD, and that if he is, he will turn to the LORD and not away. I get the feeling that GOD is not done using Rich to minister and impact others' lives here on earth.

Also, i can't help but wonder: what impact will this have within contemporary Christian music? Not being a fan of a lot of ccm (some of it I find to be shallow- too happy happy joy joy, not enough impact, if it doesn't make you think when you hear it, what is the point???) I have always found Rich to be a refreshing, inspiring change from the mundane. Who will the LORD bring forward now for those like myself? Well, I have rambled on quite enough. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rich, Mitch and the driver of the semi. Peace be to you all.

Steve McGhee

We were honored to have met Rich while he was music intern at Kentwood Christian Church in 1982-83 in Kentwood Michigan. We enjoyed many super times with Rich at camp, church, and home. Last Wednesday, we had a very uplifting memorial service for him at church. People came from all over West Michigan to speak of Rich. Our prayers go out to his family but rejoice that he is in a place we both hope to join him. A place of no pain only joy and comfort.

With Christian Love,
Mary and Bob Palmer.

I am so thankful for the opportunity that I had to see a little of what made up Rich's heart and soul. I was able to attend his concert this past summer in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and it has

positively impacted my life every since.

It was through his music and mostly his words of wisdom that I learned how important it is to be content in life. Philippians 4:11 is the verse that has been brought to my mind time and again since that concert. Rich stressed how important it was not for us to worry about where we are headed, but to be so utterly content where we are so that we can affectively serve our Lord and King.

I left that concert with my heart so full of joy that I felt as if I would burst. Never had I been so refreshed by music as I had that night.

My heart is greatly saddened by Rich's death. If it is of any condolence, I would like you to know that I have grown spiritually through Rich's ministry. I will always treasure that concert where I truly saw God at work.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Pillath

I considered Rich Mullins be one of my most influential teachers in the faith. I belong to Worldwide Church of God. The teachings until recently were very legalistic. I didn't have a good view of God as a God of grace and love, but viewed God more in terms of a God of rules and laws that was constantly displeased with me and my efforts to obey Him. I was introduced to Rich's music by a member in my church, and before long, I purchased all of his works. His music and especially his video 'Pursuit of a Legacy' helped release me from an impoverished relationship with God into a richer, closer relationship. I look forward to meeting Rich Mullins in the future.

Thanks.
Robert Sparkman

I am truly saddened to hear about the passing of Rich. I only trust in the Lord's wisdom and know that He wanted Rich with Him. Although I never personally met Rich, he was my friend and my encourager. His music always made me focus on the Lord. Rich had that special gift of pointing others to the Lord with His music. While many, I believe, in the contemporary Christian music scene water down the gospel message, Rich was a bright and shining light. His songs made one think about his relationship with the Lord. I am a Christian school teacher and in my PE class I use Rich's song "Every where I go I see You" to warm up. The children love that song. When I heard of the accident I told my students and let them know that now Rich really does see the Lord everywhere he goes in glory. I want you to know that we are praying for Rich's family. Sometimes I must confess that I feel as though God doesn't make any sense. Rich's passing is one of these times. I only know that God has a purpose and rest in that knowledge. I look forward to the day that we will all be in glory. When we leave this crazy, sin sickened world, and see Him face to face. May the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with his family and friends during this time. I'll miss you Rich and the music that you never got the chance to sing for us. I guess the Lord wanted you to sing it in heaven.

Mike Macbeth
Florida

Mullins family,

I've been thinking all day about Rich and playing his music. I realized that he was the Keith Green of my generation--gifted with musical instruments, unmistakably clear lyrics always pointing to our Lord, and a humble spirit that was taken tragically too soon. His music and ministry had an impact on my life that touched me so deeply and encouraged me in my walk with my Savior. Although Rich will be greatly missed here on earth, I look forward to worshipping with him someday in heaven. On that day, we'll all meet again. Until then, my prayers are with you, his earthly

family.

your sister in Christ (your Church family),
Jennifer Irani

The loss is unspeakably profound. And from where I sit the void left behind appears unfillable. God has called home a man of unique and unmatched talent. The gift God gave him to speak to the hearts and souls of people through music was unprecedented. His willingness to use that gift to its fullest blessed us greatly, and so, great will be his reward in heaven.

His song "If I Stand" was a monument to the time in my life when I turned back to Christ. Ever since, his songs have expressed the joy, longing and sorrow of my soul in ways I never could. He painted pictures with his words, so simple and yet so profound. "all those drainpipes dripping out the last Sons of Thunder", "over Kansas the whole universe was still", and "I awoke in the house of God, where windows are mornings and evenings stretched from the sun, across the sky north to south.". His songs transcend time just as the classic hymns of the faith do. Who will paint those pictures and touch our souls now, Lord? I pray you will raise someone up.

But I know in all things God is good. Though I will always have some sadness in my heart when I hear his songs, I rejoice for a brother called home. It seemed to be the deepest desire of his heart and God has fulfilled it. The celestial choirs rejoice for the talent that has been added to their ranks. Thank you Lord for the time you allowed us to share with Rich. We have all been abundantly blessed. Please Lord, comfort his family and friends. I look eagerly forward to hearing Rich's latest work when I get to heaven. Come quickly Lord Jesus. See you soon, Rich.

Jack Brothers

P.S. Rich, I always here the water falling and the oceans

crashing in your songs.

When I heard the news, I couldn't help but listen to the music. When I first saw Rich, it was at a concert at church. The building was way too small to handle the crowd, but we managed to get seats close to the front. He came out wearing worn blue jeans and chewing gum. I thought, "What a card! What a character!" I was quickly awed by his gifts. God gave him the ability to make wonderful music -- even out of ordinary cups. I'll miss you. See you on the other side...

Linda Rinkel

The first time I heard STEP BY STEP, I knew it had to be shared with anyone who would listen. I am so grateful to Rich for allowing God to work through him and using his incredible talents for our Lord. It is not just Rich we admire, but God in Rich that is so special. I thank God for Rich.

I am saddened by the loss of Rich on this earth, but I am indescribably happy that Rich is in Heaven. He is in the presence of our Lord. He has seen Him face to face. What a joy that must be! May God comfort all in this knowledge and may God grant all grace in our sorrow.

Finally, I am delighted to say my husband and I were married on Rich's birthday in 1995 and we used STEP BY STEP in our ceremony. That memory has come to be even more special now. Thank you God!

Joan Luaces

We in the music ministry at Westlake Baptist Church have used Rich's music extensively. Westlake is a seeker targeted church, that is we devote our prime time services on Sunday to reaching

out to the lost and disenfranchised, after Christ's example. The music Rich wrote gives a message of joy and hope to a group of people who do not have that joy and hope. The impact of his music will live on past the loss of his life. Thanks to God for allowing us to share in Rich's ministry here on earth. We pray that God will heal the lives of those Rich left behind.

WW Tarpley

I would like to convey my sympathies to Rich's family and vent my sorrow, too. I can't imagine ever forgetting the emotional impact his music has had on me. Many times (Our Father in Heaven knows exactly how many times) I would put on a Rich Mullins CD and without setting-up a reserved "worship time" find myself at God's throne, pouring out my thanks for rescuing me from the miry pit, which I deserve. The immediate task at hand would go unaccomplished and I would sit in grateful tears at the words to songs like, "If I Stand", "Here To Carry On", "My One Thing" and a testimony to my own life, "Growing Young". I will continue to worship God with the aid of Rich's music, but I am selfishly sorry that the additional ones are gone. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Rich at the many concerts of his I attended, I can't help feeling that I have lost a good friend. It is a bittersweet position to be in, isn't it? I will continue to remember Rich's family in prayer.

In Sorrow and Joy,
Eileen Manning

My husband and I first heard Rich at a small coffee house type setting, (the Dandelion), in Wichita. He had a tremendous impact on our lives. He set an example before everyone of how a man of God should live. He was real, gentle, personal. Praise God for allowing him to enter into our life if even for a brief moment.

We will miss him.

Lori Myrtle

I praise God for the mighty works this man did in the power of Jesus Christ and I look forward to spending all eternity with him. I lift up his family and loved ones before the throne of grace, that they may be strengthened in the struggles of this world. We know we have a better world to look forward to and our gain is to spend all eternity with our heavenly Father who will never leave us nor forsake us.

When I was a very young and wayward christian, Rich's music spurred me on to go back to the throne of Jesus. I know that his music lifted me out of depression caused by many difficult times. God uses men like these to bring the babes in Christ and even nonbelievers to a life walked with God. That is what Rich did, he walked with God and he lead others to do the same. God bless his ministry and may it continue to do the works of Christ. I know he is blessed in the almighty presence of God to the point that I am envious. I am excited and full of joy at the mere thought of a place with no pain, no tears, no struggle.

Lord, may we live our lives in the spiritual realm of your presence and let us not be distracted any longer by the gains and struggles of this world. Bless Rich's family with your reassuring presence. Bring Mitch to completely restored health. Thank you Lord Jesus that you took stripes on your back for his healing and he shall be restored. I pray for his family and I ask that you give them supernatural strength and endurance. Praise the Lord Always!

MJM

Dear Mrs. Mullins,

I am praying that God will give you and your family an over abundance of peace. On Sunday, August 31, 1997, I lost my only child in a tragic auto accident. He was 21, and had just finished a Christian Concert in Washington, the Tom Festival. Kevin was just filling in as the band Forthwright's bass guitarist. Kevin was an awesome young man of God, and shared his faith with everyone. I would just like to share that God has been with me and my husband through this trial, and he continues to bless us daily. When we learned of your son's death, we knew the pain that you felt and our hearts went out to you. We will continue to pray for you and your family. Your son had a wonderful ministry, and the Lord will continue to use him to minister to those who listen to his music.

God bless you,
Lora Glass

It's taken a while to put this tragedy into any kind of perspective. I have thought of the countless days that I have carpooled my children back and forth around town while holding back tears as I sang along with Rich's songs. They cut to my heart like no other. We sing him almost weekly at my PCA presbyterian church during praise time. He is a part of countless lives....or should I say he opened countless windows for the Lord to enter the lives of so many. I was raised a Christian, and I have raised my family to be Christians. It's amazing as we feel so "intuned" with the Christian world...that someone could come along to take us a step higher. He was a Christian's Christian. I listened to him, and I was brought to a higher level in my walk.

I know the Lord will provide new ways for me to grow, but my heart is heavy, and I wish I could be a part of his memorial in any way. My older son has his CD playing at Wake Forest University...where I think, Rich, would be surprised to know how many students are deeply affected by this loss. InterVarsity Fellowship is available to talk with students who need to talk. I think we'll hear about the ground swell of mourners that are all over the

country...world as time goes on.

K.Pierce

Dear Mrs. Mullins and family:

I am so sorry. Our thoughts and prayers for you will carry on for a long time. Your son's music has inspired our family for many years. I never would have imagined that the death of someone "I did not know" could have hit so hard. I thought I could handle death, even when it's sudden, since I lost my mom, dad and brother far too soon. However, it has been a week since I've heard of Rich's death, and I still feel lost.

After some reflection, I have realized that I did know your son. He had a gift of being able to take my thoughts, feelings, even my groanings that seemed far too deep to verbalize, and craft them into beautiful music.

He was able to sing of the complexity and mystery of God, yet I was inspired to pursue Him even harder. He would sing of our wretchedness and failures, yet I was overwhelmed by the Grace of God. Convicted, but never condemned. His songs provided such a spiritual feast, but I always left with a deep hunger and thirst for more. He opened my eyes to God's handiwork in nature and in people, especially "the least of these". His music could sweep me before the Throne of God, but not leave me there. I always could hear his admonition to spread God's Love in this short time here on earth.

We only had the privilege of seeing him in concert twice. Our children enjoyed being able to participate with Rich as he sang. He asked everyone to take their keys out of their pockets and jingle them. These ordinary items were transformed into instruments used to offer praise to God. I was blessed more by what he had to say than by his songs. He appeared to be a very humble man who truly cared about those he met. He was one of the very few who lived their life here knowing this was not his home.

Well the road now seems steep and uneven. A little harder to see.
But I pray that God will raise up another. For we all need
someone to remind us that "God is in His temple, and there is
still a prayer that can make the mountains move".

Paul Zubrowski

Hi to the family of Rich Mullins. I like to introduce myself to
you. My name is C. E. Prince. I am hard-of-hearing and am male.
Also, I am a music director at Deaf Mission Baptist Church in
Shreveport, La. I am a fan of Rich Mullins. I am deeply sorry to
hear that you lost your love one. Even though I never met him, I
feel really miss him. I think he is a great singer. I bought the
first CD of Rich Mullins. The album of the first CD is "SONGS".
I think it is great. When I heard that Rich Mullins passed away,
I felt really bad. I know that I should be happy that Rich is
with the Lord forever and I still miss him.

Anyway, the real reason I write this email is because I want to
honor him by signing one of his song with a sign language. I
wanted to signed the song to keep his "flaming memory" alive. As
I mentioned earlier, I am hard-of-hearing. I am able to hear the
songs with certain deep voices like Rich Mullins and Carman. I
didn't use my voice to sing the song, but I used the sign language
to sign the song. On September 28, 1997 (today's date), I signed
one of Rich Mullins' song called "Sometimes By Step" for the
special song service at the deaf church. I think that this song
is beautiful.

Also, I will pray for Rich's family that God will care for his
family and to continue to comfort. I hope that this letter clear
to you because I am not good on grammar. On other words, I hope
that you understand this letter, but just want to let you know
something I did for Rich Mullins. That is all. May God bless and
continue to comfort you.

C. E. Prince

I'm sitting in the dark with my newborn son beside me, trying to find adequate words, knowing I will not. Zachary Paul came into this world three hours before Rich left it. I found out about Rich the following Wednesday. I came home and told my wife. We ate our supper in silence, too hurt to talk. I raised my head to speak and she beat me to it. She said "Do you want to call him Rich?" I looked at her in disbelief and said "You read my mind! Yes!" Zachary Paul Richard is an angel from heaven.

Rich, my dear friend, mentor, idol whom I loved, followed, imitated...you left awful big shoes to fill. I know what you're going to say...follow Jesus like you followed me. That's what's hitting me through all this, and I know that you're probably hoping and praying right now that that's what we'll all do. I will try Rich. I honestly will. My favorite song of yours is The Love of God, and you know, you just may be the flame that finally melts my heart of stone. Ironical isn't it? I know you're still alive, Rich, you're just not one of the "remaining" ones like I am. I'm comforted by that, knowing I'll see you again some day...you'll be the one in bare feet.

Thanks for everything, Rich. I love you. Thank you Father, your ways I know are best, even though they are past finding out. I love you too.

Your friends,
Paul and Deborah.

Monday, September 29, 1997

I have cried buckets, oceans even, over the thought of not seeing him again till the other side. His leaving left a hole in my

heart the size of Kansas, but one very good thing has happened to me because of it. I had settled into a daily grind of life, and Richard's dramatic exit got me thinking about my commitment to God. Yes, I'm a Christian. But not the kind that Richard was. Even tho' I had wept for days, all I could see was Richard's face when I cried out to the Lord for comfort. Then last night I saw the Lord step in front of Richard and ask me "Why do you not weep and long for Me like that?" Talk about your reality check!! So I got out my Bible and started my long journey home. Richard is home. I'm the one kicking and screaming about this, not him! I'll never forget Richard. And I'll never forget the whimsy of him, his awe in the world of nature, nor his delight in the unfathomable mysteries of God. Even as a teenager, he had the same mysterious magnetism that drew people to him till the end. He gave us so much, and now I need to carry on while he enjoys his rest and reward.

Susie

Rich's heart for God displayed in his music, will always live forever. His music has ministered to me many a time. Although he was taken away so quickly, when I heard the news I instantly thought, "Precious in the sight of the Lord, is the death of His saints." I praise God that the grave has been defeated and that your son, brother, friend... is staring into the beautiful face of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you all, may you rest assured in your time of grief that there are many there bearing your loss... God bless.

SB

Dear Neva and Family:

I know God doesn't make mistakes, and I know where Rich is now, but that doesn't stop our hurting here on Earth. I also know that

Rich touched people's lives all over the world, and a few out of this world. I knew Rich for 10 years, first meeting and getting to know him while he was at CBC. When I met him I didn't want anything to do with God, I had a "not-so-hot" relationship with my father, and the last thing I wanted to do was go to a "religious" concert. I'm glad I did though.

Rich took the time to explain to me what it meant to have God as, not only a friend, but as my true father. I had a lot of anger inside me and Rich seemed to know just what the Holy Spirit wanted him to say, and he said it - he didn't pull any punches - he told me that I needed to "wise up" and then he gave me a great big hug. I needed that hug. I think he needed that hug too. I have to tell you that when I heard the news of his going home, I thought the person who called and told me was wrong, or had gotten her information wrong (which I knew was unlikely from this person). But for some reason I just sat down and felt numb. When I last spoke with Rich, a few months ago, he told me that he would be in Wichita for the youth concert and that we'd hook up after the concert for a sandwich and that I'd finally get to meet "this Mitch guy". I was so looking forward to that sandwich! But I'd rather Rich eat his sandwich with Jesus.

Neva, please know, as a mother, that you do, indeed, have every reason to be proud of your son, and know that he always took the time to reach out, be himself, and show people just how much they needed God in their lives, whether they wanted to know that or not. I will miss Rich and his gift, but I won't say "goodbye" I'd rather say, "until later" God Bless. I know God's blessing Rich right now with all of the knowledge that Rich so longed and searched for....So long my friend, save me a seat (and a sandwich!- and don't lose it this time!)

With Love In Him,
Sandi

I've been a musician/songwriter for many years and I really appreciated the great talent in this man. The night he went home

we were at an Insyderz concert with the youth group we lead and the last song they did (even though it was a Ska version) was Awesome God ; We didn't find out about his going until sunday and then it dawned on us that that friday night we were ushering him into heaven with his own song. Praise God! Monday night on KLOVE they ran a tribute to the man and afterwards late that night God inspired me to write this poem/song, so I humbly submit it here. It's called "Brother Rich"

When they told me that you had gone home to God, I think I was a bit numb How you had inspired us all and challenged us to sing our praises to the Lord Man you were a bright star! Shining forth the love of an awesome God Step by step you led us through your world of praise And you said it wouldn't break your heart to say good-bye, but it sure did ours

My brother to be as inspired as you, to have your gift of song Must truly have been a blessing and a joy to pass along I only saw you on time, with your t-shirt and bare feet But the Truth of all you were that night, was oh so very sweet

I pray that I'll be as faithful with the little I've been given As you were with your great task of sharing to the world all that God gave you to share I too want to stand on the promise, I too want to fall on the grace, and I too want to sing for the joy But now I weep because you have made it home, and we remain behind

B Solas

Hi, I just wanted to say that the music of Rich Mullins has had a very profound effect on me. His music was very much anointed by God and what a blessing it has been. Our radio station in Chico, CA KLOVE has played a lot of Rich's music in memory of him. I have two of his cd's and plan to get more. Praise God for folks like Rich who live for God and share their talent with everyone else. Heaven surely must be rejoicing at his arrival.

In His Love.
Dottie Gillespie

Rich found his favor with God; he shunned the rewards of the world, and sought what God offered at the cost of the fame that would have brought him the attention (I feel) he deserved. Tozer was right: the godly man is little valued in this world. How much more, then, we need to strive to be men who are little esteemed by the world and valued only by our Father in heaven. Rich truly lived "He must increase, and I must decrease." What a great honor it has been to know a man who tried to live this out.

Chris Klahn
Aviano AB, Italy

I never heard Rich sing live - it was a funny twist in God's plan: I was at Summer Madness here in N. Ireland. He was to be on stage on Saturday night after taking a 1 hr seminar in the afternoon. I was at the seminar and heard him speak. He was very nervous at the start but still blessed us so much. So many speakers come to N. Ireland and give us their opinion of what we're doing wrong and how to sort out our problems. You'll not be surprised when I say Rich was different. He came and told us about God, and how he sees so many people using the christian music industry as a vehicle to fame and fortune, not the cross. (We smiled every time he said vehicle, with our different accent it sounded really funny - we pronounce it with a silent 'h' , more like "ve-ache-le" but Rich said "ve-HAKE-le". I don't think he even noticed our reaction).

This theme led him onto his point that God doesn't always call us to worldly fame, popularity and success but some of us will be called to financial poverty, hardship, and sacrificing things we desire so much.

At the end Rich was really going well and he slipped into the

prose that touches deep down in you. The couple of Irish people who'd heard of Rich knew that they were about to be hit for 6, but the majority of the audience never seen it coming! We could really feel God's spirit as he moved through Rich's prose.

The hour flew by and then I suddenly had to be called away! I was really upset but it took me a few weeks to realise that this is what God was talking about - missing things we desire so much. If I'd seen Rich perform I would probably have started following him and looking at him, not Jesus. Rich wouldn't have wanted that, and most of all God didn't and in His wisdom I didn't see Rich. Realising that comforted me a lot and then, in his great provision I stumbled upon the mailing list. I've read so many reviews of Rich's concerts that I feel like I've been to one. Thank you for your work - God does use the mailing list and minister to us through it. I believe it to be a vital part of mission in your life.

Before Rich came to N. Ireland only a dozen or so people had heard his music. People couldn't understand why we were all nuts about his music. After the concert they understood.

His Protestant/Catholic beliefs put him in a unique position for ministering to the proud, splintered people that we are in N. Ireland. The fact that he had an inkling of Catholicism itself was a massive challenge to the Protestant church. That challenge is still there today.

Please pass on my condolences to Rich's family and my thoughts for Mitch and his family. Also Beaker and Rich's manager.

Adrian Lester
Northern Ireland

Wish I would have taken the time to send this letter. Maybe God will see that Rich knows how much his obedience to God has helped so many. For Rich; Many times I've run far from God, seeking dark

places to hide my dirty soul. Too ashamed to open my bible and ask for God's forgiveness. But your music is embedded in my bones. It creeps out in the middle of the night and pervades my thoughts until my troubled spirit cries out for forgiveness and God in his goodness wraps me in the mercy and the grace that you sang about. It cost you much Richard, to walk the path God laid before you. But Jesus said "lay down your life and follow me." You did. Thank you for the light that you have left showing me the way. See you on the other side my friend.

Dale McClellan

Our sympathy goes to the family and many friends of Rich Mullins. I was greatly impacted by his ministry, for you see Rich was the very first contemporary artist I have ever heard in concert. I was raised by a legalistic church and found little joy therein. A friend invited me to attend a concert of Rich's in Indiana, and I was amazed that young Christians could praise God in such a beautiful way. This was the beginning of learning to worship God in spirit and in truth. The thing that impressed me so much about Rich Mullins was his honesty in worship. His focus was truly on God and he seemed to send all the praises he received to the Father himself. I truly admire him for giving the praise to the one who deserved it. A special thank you to the family of Rich Mullins for the sacrifices you gave in order that others could be ministered through his gifts. The seed was planted and continues to grow on and on in a lot of individuals.

With my sympathy,
a Sister in Christ.

Mrs. Mullins and others in Rich's family -

I am so sorry to hear of the death of your son Rich. I'm praying for you all.

I first heard of Rich in 1981 or so when Zion played at our high

school in Anderson, Indiana, as part of the Great Escape. I enjoyed his music then and was thrilled when Dave Wheeler asked him to be part of our week at church camp at Pearson's Mill Christian Assembly (now Rainbow Christian Camp) in Converse, Indiana. The week spent with Rich was the best week I ever spent at camp. He didn't play a whole lot of music that week. Mostly he spoke to us about reverencing the Word of God and applying it to our daily lives. I thank God for the impact Rich had on my life that week and through the years with his music and testimony.

I'm sure you wouldn't remember me, but I visited your church in Richmond with the Christian Campus House ministry from Ball State. Carlye Harris, who grew up in that church, was with us that day and introduced us to you and your son Dave. You mentioned that Amy Grant had just recorded another of Rich's songs - Doubly Good to You.

Through the years, I've benefitted from Rich's music in many many ways. It has **always** encouraged me to draw deeper into God and His word. Thank you for giving him life.

Most recently, my husband and I saw Rich in concert in South Bend, Indiana. The next night we saw the premiere of Canticale of the Plains. One of my best friends, Shelly Yoder-Wray, played Frank's love interest. Again, your son's words and music touched my life and encouraged me to pursue the important things in life.

This has been a fall of many deaths touching my life in one way or another. In particular our pastor died a month ago. Our church spent a great deal of time grieving together, but we rejoice in knowing that "we sorrow, but not as those who have no hope." Someday, we will see Rich again. We **know** where Rich is now - with his Savior that he loved so much. In his death, he still encourages me, Mrs. Mullins, because I know Rich is in Heaven with Jesus.

Thank you again for giving Rich life and giving him such a firm foundation in his faith. I know you are grieving right now, and you and all your family are in our prayers.

We loved Rich, and because of that, we extend our love and prayers to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Anni and Chuck Welborne
West Lafayette, Indiana

What a great loss for us not to be able to hear more wonderful music from him. What a great blessing to Rich to finally be in heaven. My husband Ron and I had the opportunity to hear Rich in concert at Crystal Evangelical Free Church in New Hope, Minnessota . It was a wonderful worship experience as well as being a concert;and meeting Rich in person after the concert was also a really positive experience. He is definitely missed.

Julie Rakke

I have been trying for days to find the words to describe the sense of loss that I feel at Rich's death. I met him several times and found him to be one of the most unassuming and humble men I had ever met. His music and life have had a profound influence on my life, and for that I am eternally grateful to God. Rich had a way of knowing exactly what to say and how to say it. Many times in my life, usually during the darkest times, I let Rich and his music speak for me. I began praying for Rich about three years ago--praying for him personally, for his band, his travels and tours, and his musical influence on today's youth.

Rich Mullins will be missed by a great many people. He was a man after God's own heart. I will miss him greatly.

Dawn Thomas

My first response at the news of Rich's death was one of selfishness. I long to be in heaven, and I was jealous that God would allow him to come home while I still have work to do. Shocked, I was in a state of disbelief that God, knowing how inspiring he was to me, would actually take him from this earth where he touched so many people.

But I'm glad for him. And began to ponder the reasons I was so touched by a man I never knew.

The first and foremost was his relationship with God. He definitely passed on that fact through his writings. I also admired how he could express those feelings so clearly and prolifically. God had truly blessed him with a gift of eloquence, creativity, and the ability to communicate so thoroughly what an awesome God he served.

And in my passing I would like to have touched others in the way Rich did. Thru an obvious relationship with my Master. my Maker, my God!

Michelle Shaw

Some eight years ago before I ever knew of Rich Mullins, I attended a Christian singles music concert. I don't recall who came and played, but what stands out in my memory is that during the preparatory time, they played "Our God is an awesome God." A good portion of the audience, if not most, was sincerely praising God while singing the chorus. That was the best part of the whole night.

dave nelson
Sacramento, CA

The news is indeed both happy and sad; Rich is Home but he and his inspiring songs will definitely be missed. "Awesome God", THE youth group song, was my first Rich Mullins experience although it would be years before I learned he was the man behind the tune. "Sing Your Praise to the Lord", definitely one of my favorites on Amy Grant's Collection album is a similar situation. I familiarized myself with the NAME Rich Mullins after hearing his excellent cover of the late Mark Heard's "How to Grow Up Big and Strong" and shortly after bought Brother's Keeper and A Liturgy, A Legacy and a Ragamuffin Band. The latter has the honor of being one of my very favorite albums.

I'm a deejay at a community station. We're not supposed to play Christian music but I sneak Mullins' songs in as often as I can. I will be featuring him on an upcoming show and if you can send me any information about his life and/or music, I would greatly appreciate it. I did have the honor of listening to a syndicated special about Rich on Seattle's Christian station and was touched by his stories about teaching young children music. I wish I could remember more of the show but I do remember one specific quote: "No one is won into the Kingdom of Christ through snobbery." I think this stood out because I was still in high school, where snobbery is alive and well, but if only more people would think that way!!

Mr. Mullins was obviously very loving and selfless. Two other very gifted, Godly CCM men went to heaven a little earlier than the rest of us: Keith Green and Mark Heard. Rich appeared on both of their tribute albums and now I'm happy to know that he's with them singing his praises WITH the Lord AND to the Lord. I send my deepest regards to his friends and family and look forward to expanding my Mullins' collection and keeping his music alive.

Sincerely,
Tammy Tillinghast

I never met Rich Mullins and yet it is as if my best friend just died. I pray for his family and everyone effected by this. I

know death is different from God's point of view; it's not a parting but a reunion. His music touched my life so, because everything that I ever wanted to say to God and could never find the words for he said for me. These songs are my prayers and promises. I know that Rich was an ordinary man like anyone of us. His "greatness" if you will, came from his simple love and devotion for God. All he did was follow God; his devoted walk on this earth has stirred the fire in my heart to live a life as devoted to God as Rich's and to follow Him to the end's of the earth and beyond, just like Rich.

"...I am home anywhere, if You are where I am..."

He is finally home...forever.

Aaron Taylor

As someone who has been blessed so much through Rich's music, I can truly be thankful he is still with us in that art form. As a Compassion sponsor myself, I know his love for the needy children he gave much of his life for will increase through his passing. Rich had a way of sharing what true compassion and righteousness truly were, and rarely are these seen in someone as well known as Rich. He spoke to me, but more importantly I saw a Christ radiating through his life. When you can see Christ in anyone, then you know what is truly special about a person's life. Rich's was truly special. Jesus is still so good.

Lee Shed

I have know Rich now for 12 years. I met him in Missouri at CIY. He always hung around our youth group. I am 28 now and I will miss him very much. His music was always listened to in my car, house, and anywhere I had a tape player. Your family is in my and my churches prayers. He is in a better place and as he said in

one of his songs "if I weep, let me weep as a man who is longing for his home". Rich you are home now.

With Love
FKE

Dear family of Rich,

I'm sure you are no doubt overwhelmed by the sheer number of people that have responded to the news of Rich's going to be with the Lord. Knowing that this is the goal for all of us who live for Christ doesn't seem to make this loss easier. Those of us who he left behind are grieving.

I know that he touched many, many lives. My son and I met him backstage at a concert here in Raleigh last November. I was almost embarrassed looking back to have bothered him. He was very kind to us and humble in the Lord, and didn't seem comfortable with the attention. We were near the front and he smiled at us when he came on stage, I think more comfortable with the crowd than with individuals.

His music, lyrics and melodies touched so many and led so many to the Lord. He always pointed to God. I still have my ticket on which he signed "Be Gods" I will never forget him. I feel in a lot of ways like he was the big brother (in the Lord) I never had.

I remember when my dad died, it was so hard to read the condolences and sympathy cards, I ended up just putting them in a box because it was just too painful. I had no idea how many lives my dad touched. I did read them a few years later, and it was a very sweet release. I hope these letters from Rich's fans are the same for you dear family, even if after some time goes by.

I don't think people want to intrude, but we all feel the loss, while at the same time the anticipation of also going on to be with the Lord. I know you are all hurting very much. I don't think we can fathom what it means to be absent from this earthly

body, but oh to be with Jesus, as Rich surely is now.

I am sorry for your loss, I know it is a hard thing to lose someone so dear. Please know that many, many people are praying for you.

Sincerely,
Patti Whitworth
Raleigh, NC

I am sad to hear of Rich Mullin's death. He'll be sadly missed. May his music live on forever and continue to reach souls.

I listened to the music of Rich Mullins often. I especially like the song "Awesome God." It is a very powerful song. I was shocked when I heard the news of his death. He is indeed in a better place. I am praying for his family that God will comfort them during this time. There was a song that came to mind when I heard about his death. It is a Truth song entitled "If You Could See Me Now." That is a great song and has a great message. Even though he is gone from the people who love him, he is in Heaven singing in God's choir and we wouldn't want him to leave Heaven.

Cecilia

I'm sure the Father has already welcomed Rich home and has said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." We will never understand God's plan--that must be why we're not Him. My prayers are with Rich's family and friends, I'm so sorry! --

Kathy Cross

Edwards, CA

the shock and anger is finally wearing off and i am just plain sad. rich's music has been with me through such hard times in my life. i can't imagine a world without rich mullins in it. i miss him. i have been listening to rich since i walked into a christian bookstore and heard his first album. i thought, "hey, this guy is different" and i bought the tape and have been hooked ever since. it has taken me over a week to work through the anger i have had at God for taking rich. it doesn't make sense. i am finally getting to a place where i can feel some slight feeling of joy for rich. i am selfish, yet, his death leaves me with the desire to love more, to share Christ with more people through loving them. we have nothing to lose, so why not give it all? thank you, rich, for risking it all and leaving us with so much.

jon

He's given me hope to carry on. His hope carried him to eternal life. Let's never forget the cross and it's meaning.

Jerry

On September 24 I wrote a poem about Rich Mullins in my poetry workshop. It wasn't until later that same day that I learned of his death, so you can imagine how it struck me. For the past six years, his music has helped me through many spiritual struggles. Somehow I don't feel that he is really gone because he was never fully here. He was suspended somewhere between heaven and earth on his beloved Jacob's ladder. Just think of how phenomenal it must have been for all of heaven when Rich finally met his One Thing. I only regret that I couldn't witness it. He is now surrounded by the sound which he found so elusive on earth--that sound that expresses completely the fury of God's love, mercy, justice, awesomeness, and glory. He has left for us music that

comes as close to that sound as is possible on earth. I think he would want to be remembered as the man who gave his life to sing His praise.

--Mary Scates

rich mullins put more intensity into his lyrics than any other christian artist today. his heart bled through onto the verse and music that he wove together so well for so long. he has been a part of the greatest calling man has ever received...to know God and to make Him known. may his life encourage us and his passing challenge us to live each day in step with the one who wants to give us the hope and abundant life that rich sang about. God bless you rich; you were an inspiration in your life and even more so now in your passing

marie

Words can not express to you how Rich's music has touched my life. I live in Houston, Texas and our local Christian radio station KSBJ devoted the morning show to Rich the Monday after his death. I cried as I drove to work listening to songs, thoughts and prayers that were shared. I heard about Rich's death sunday afternoon. Tears rolled down my face. I did not know him personally, but his songs have touched my heart. Saturday evening I was going to listen to KSBJ, but the radio signal is weak right now and did not come in to well, so I decided to listen to a CD. Out of all of my choices of music to listen to I chose Rich's songs. That is why I was so shocked sunday afternoon when I heard the news. It made me realize how precious our lives are. I am sure Rich is singing his praises with the Angels in Heaven.

My heart goes out to his family, along with my prayers.

Misty Phillip

I am astonished by the man who we know best because of lyrics that lead us to the Lord God Himself. It is a marvelous thing to be known as the man who drafted the lyric like Our God is and Awesome God, or O God you are my God. I am sure that the Lord has this man and says " Well done good and Faithful Servant".

I was talking to my sister who lives in Wichita and is a member of Central Christian Church, Friday night just before she was leaving to attend Rich's memorial service. She and I both first heard of Rich after she had been attending Central for a few months. It was 1988 and CCC like now, didn't like to bring a whole lot of attention to the fact that they had this very unique individual in their midst because they wanted Rich to feel like one of them and because Rich wanted people to come to Church to worship God, not him.

As we spoke we remembered how "different" we noticed Rich's music was from the rest and remembered times that we got to talk to him. For me It was only about 4 or 5 times. The last was in '95 just before he graduated. I was singing at the Fri. night alive service at CCC and he was playing piano for Praise & Worship. Although I made no fuss, the sound was not right. As I was singing Rich, who was sitting right in front of me, got up and went to the back. The sound got better and I knew that he had caught on and went and fixed it for me. His presence there did not make me feel nervous. He was just a guy who loved the Lord like me and used what talent he had for God's glory.

When I think back I wonder if I should have been more in "awe" of being in his presence. But no. I believe he would have been embraced and probably disgusted with it. Any way as my sister and I spoke of such a great loss we both began to cry. I told her I didn't know why I was taking this so hard and I don't know when there would be a day that I wouldn't cry. I told her I feel like there is a whole in my heart and I didn't even really know him.

She started laughing through her tears and she says "you know, me too. And everyone I talk to says the same thing." I told her I thought most of my tears were for a world who is hurting and he ministered to them and he isn't here anymore. (especially the children on the reservation) She interrupted me and said "I believe the biggest part of Rich's ministry is NOW!" I had to agree.

I for one will donate to a charity I probably never would have donated to before (compassion USA) I am going to complete my collection of his music and I understand that some proceeds will go toward his charities. People are sitting up and taking notice. Who was this Rich Mullins? When they discover it I don't think they could ever be the same.

It seems the saying is true, "you don't know what you got 'til it's gone." I mourn with you but take comfort in this which the pastor at the memorial in Wichita said; "there's a ragamuffin loose in heaven! He walks of streets of gold barefoot! Heaven will never be the same!"

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.....a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." Eccl:3

This is the season. We must do them all. We weep because we lost him. We laugh because we remember him. We mourn because we miss him. We dance because he now dances. He is home! "Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall to the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Jn:12:24 That fruit is already springing up. It is challenging this songwriter to be true to my calling and to remember what really is important. Not recognition, not awards, not myself, but in showing others Jesus Christ the hope of glory. I've been through all of the above emotions and now I'd like to say "Rich! You lucky dog!" *Laughing Out Loud*

God bless you.
Renee Reneau

Junciton City, KS

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the same that called our brother home. The hope of life eternal with Jesus Christ just became a little bit greater. Oh what a minister through song. It would not be right for us not to lift up our brother's family and friends in this time of need. As Rich song said, " I will be my brother's keeper." I pray for peace and healing for the family and friends of Rich Mullins. He is truly experiencing what he wrote so much about in song.

Todd Woodall

I never attended any of his concerts and I never even thought to look up this page on the net before now.... However, Rich's music truly ministered to me and I want to be counted as one of the many who will miss him. His lyrics challenged me to keep a heavenly perspective and cling to Jesus at every step of the way. I am reminded of his song "If I stand" - . "If I weep, let me weep as a man who is longing for his home" - Welcome home Rich.

Carrie Olson

To Rich's family...

I would like to thank you for sharing your son, brother, uncle with the rest of us. I'm grateful for the foundation you gave Rich to become the man that he was. I believe families provide the ingredients that make us who we are-- and when you add God, you have an amazing individual like Rich Mullins. While this loss is still painful, rest assured that God has great plans for you, as well as for all of us whose lives he touched. May you feel the countless prayers that people all over the world are sending to

our Father for you.

To Rich... Thank you for the love you had for God and for this world. Thank you for teaching us more about how to love. Your example has left a life-long impression on me. It was my privilege to see you in my first Christian concert, then again when you came back to San Antonio. Thank you for following Jesus the way you did. Having a gift like you here on earth is yet another reason to sing "Awesome God." We will always love you!

"Am" God's,
Joanne Martin
- San Antonio, Texas

Rich's death has finally become a reality to me. i really don't understand why anything like this would happen to someone like him. he was a great inspiration to me, because he totally sold his life to God. all that he accomplished was for the glory of God and was totally from God. like i said earlier, i still don't understand why this happened, and i probably never will, but all i know is that God will be glorified by this in some way.

may God bless you beyond measure with his comfort and peace.
i'll miss him a lot.
in Him,
brent collier

When I became a Christian about 5 years ago, Rich was the first Christian artist to impact me the way that he did. I always thought of Christian music as kind of shallow, but his ability to let God speak through his words captivated me. As I've grown and learned more about God and His word, I came to know Rich more as the godly man that he was. His songs became to me a channel through which I could worship and learn more about the God that his songs pointed to. His love for Jesus Christ was evident in

his songs as well as his lifestyle. I will remember him with the utmost respect and admiration for his ability to let God work through him the way that he did. May this world never forget him and may the heavens ring with the songs he wrote for the glory of the Almighty Living God!

ernie

Our prayers are for Richards family and love one's God Bless. Richards music has helped myself and my church in coming closer to the LORD.

Thank you

Kerry Spero
North Queensland Australia

dear rich: music, appalachia, teaching Native children, knowing Christ -- we are linked as kindred souls in so many ways. how is it our paths never crossed? how is it i am lonely for you tho' we never met? my childish heart wants to argue with God that we need you more down here than He can possibly in heaven. brother Rich, your life and music brought heaven closer to us, and your passing causes us to long more deeply for " things not seen." while we wait, let's be challenged by your example to embrace not the shackles of "piety," but the freedom of radically loving God and His kids. from one ragamuffin to another--i'll be missing you 'til we meet at His feet.

mp galeotti

His lyrics were so simple and earthy, which made them so spiritually profound. I am saddened that this servant will no longer be ministering here on this earth, but am happy for him

that he is truly "home" and am sure that all the heavenly hosts and God himself are enjoying Rich's worship. Rich's music has truly been a blessing to me. I am thankful that I have tapes and CD's of his music to remember him by. My prayers are with his family and friends and all who loved this man of God.

Josie Dirkes

He was only God's. He now is with Him. His music will live in my heart until I can sing it with him around God's throne. Praise to the Lord for what He did in my heart with Rich's music. Really it was God's music.

Grace and Peace

Mary

Rich Mullins to me was a godly role model. His heart for people and his heart of servanthood showed in his songs and his love for the lord. To his mother, I was proud to be one of his fans of his music and that the lord loaned him to us for just a little while. Take comfort in knowing that Rich is now with his "Awesome God" and soon we will be joining him. If he were here now, I would want to thank him for giving our praises to the lord and for the lord to hold us when we are scared and shaking like a leaf. Much love to the family and I'm praying for you in the days ahead.

Gayle Thurmond-Lecus

Rich touched my life through his wonderful music. My prayers are for his family and friends.

Love,

Alison Nelson

I didn't know him, but he touched my life. That a man could touch so many, change the lives of so many, is a great testimony to the power of God in Rich's life. His reward in Heaven is great. I feel as if I have lost a friend that I never got a chance to know.
Jennifer

I miss him sorely and I never met him. Step by Step, Song by Song God has spoken to me thru Rich's works.
Jeff

I didn't hear of Rich's death until Sunday morning on my way to church. The news grieved me. I will greatly miss his ministry, his music, his life and all the songs that are left unwritten. His music blessed and ministered to me in a way that no others did. Heavens choir is blessed to gain him, but the world is indeed a poorer place without him. I am now reminded of a song by Twila Paris; I pray that in some way it might minister peace to the hearts of all of us who miss our dear brother Rich.

"A visitor from heaven, if only for a while
A gift of love to be returned. We think of you and smile.
A visitor from heaven, accompanied by grace,
Reminding of a better love and of a better place.
With aching hearts and empty arms, we send you with a name
It hurts so much to let you go, but we're so glad you came.
We're so glad you came.

A visitor from heaven, if only for a day.
We thank Him for the time He gave, and now it's time to say
We trust you to the Fathers' love and to His tender care.
Held in the everlasting arms, and we're so glad you're there.
We're so glad you're there.

With breaking hearts and open hands
We send you with a name
It hurts so much to let you go, but we're so glad you came.
Yes, we're so glad you came."

The Tidwell's

We will all miss Rich deeply and we are all praying for Rich's family and Mitch and his family. His songs and his compassion for people have always inspired me and now the he is gone to his true home he will affect me and many others for the rest of our lives. We miss you Rich.

Karen Place

There is no way to express how God used Rich's music in my life. I suppose that most of us could recite story after story of how his songs spoke deeply into our lives at various moments in time throughout the years and challenged us and comforted us-- made us aware of the profound hunger inside our souls and of the only One who could fill that hunger. In 1995 God gave me a little moment after a concert to try to express to Rich what could never be expressed in a moment (but which I am grateful for nonetheless)-- how in each of the darkest pockets of my life, such as my father's death just before my high school graduation in 1987, when I listened to "Elijah" on my walkman in the backseat of my aunt's car driving home after my father left this world--God filled my heart with hope and longing in the midst of the night through his songs. That is only one small example. There were the many times, driving in the car at sunset or sunrise or at night, that I wept to the point of almost not being able to drive, as I joined with Rich in crying out for more of the God that I long for... but hardly know (The Color Green, Be With You, Elijah, If I Stand, Sometimes By Step, Hold Me Jesus, etc.).

I am now 28 years old, and I have lived from one Rich Mullins

album to the next since I was 17 (two weeks after his debut album hit the bookstores). Rich has felt like a close friend, though, of course, I never knew him in the way that his family and friends knew him. But perhaps I knew, as we all did, the deepest part of him: his longing to know God and worship him with every cell and fiber of his being. I never saw Rich stumble, as I am certain those who knew him did, but I felt like I saw a glimpse of the deepest part of him: the DESIRE of his heart to know and love and serve his God. So maybe in his strength and in his weakness both, he spoke to us at the most profound level. Maybe he was like King David: a man after God's own heart in the depth of his longing and in his motives. And, like David, he reminded us of our thirst in a dry and weary land where there is no water. This week we have lost a prophet and a poet; even more we have lost our precious brother (who probably never thought of himself as either one of those things). But we've only lost him for a little while. And now Rich, together with all the saints who have gone before us, can intercede for us who are left here until God calls each of us home: that we would, by God's grace, yield ourselves wholly to Him so that He can accomplish the work he has called us to in these precious, fleeting days. " Thy Kingdom Come, Father. Thy will be done... Thank you for using Rich to help us pray this prayer..."

Marla Kranick
Augusta, GA

P.S. One odd side note: The night Rich went to be with the Lord I was back home in Santa Barbara, CA for the funeral of my uncle. I was walking on the pier of one of Santa Barbara's beaches with a close friend. I stopped to soak in the beauty of that night: the moon reflecting on the water, the cool breeze, the stillness of the moment. I began singing "If I Stand" quietly, but loud enough for my friend to hear me and join in. As I sang the melody, he harmonized. It was about 8pm CA time. I found out the following day that Rich rose up to meet his heart's desire at about 10pm that same night, Chicago time. It might have simply been a coincidence, but maybe it was more. Maybe God allowed me to sing for Rich as he met his Father, as he finally saw the "face of love," just as God has allowed him to sing for me all these years, that I might better know Him.

We all loved rich so much.when I was 7 i saw him in concert.I admired him so much.I Wanted to do the same thing he was doing.Will be praying for the people he left behind.Rich is now with his one true love.if i ever have a career in music i will acknowledge that he was a big influence.

for life is a dream and heaven's a reality
and though it seem's this world had everything
it's never more than a dream....

god bless you,
kyle o'leary
(age 14)

what a man Rich was.....i fell in love with his music.his music always seemed to hit the very heart of the matter and always uplifted me and tons of others.i can say Rich is and will be missed GREATLY!!!!!! Sometimes my life just don't make sense at all when the mountains look so high and my faith seems so small,hold me Jesus cause i'm shaking like a leaf you have been my king of glory want you be my prince of peace...we can honestly say that Jesus right now is holding Rich.thank you God for this mans life.

Shana

When I first came to the Lord, it was the music of Rich Mullins that transformed me and welcomed me into the family. The lyrics to "Waiting" were on the door of my dorm room and his song "Growing Young" continues to make me cry. Rich used his gift to reach so many of us. We mourn his death and yet rejoice in his passage. He has truly shown us "to live is Christ and to die is

gain". Praise God for allowing us to know him through his music and his message.

Kevin Burke

As I write the word, "Rejoice!" I can hardly see through the tears...I'll miss him music and humor and sharing of faith so very much. But I WILL rejoice in the Lord, knowing Rich knew Him and that He now is there with our Lord and Savior whom He loved to His fullest right to the end. May we all rejoice in the Lord...come quickly, Jesus.

Mimi Festerling

When I heard about Rich, I was overwhelmed with sadness. He was such a great man of God and had such a powerful ministry. I know, however, that God is sovereign. He wanted Rich home with Him. And isn't that what Rich wanted? Isn't it what we all are really longing for? I'm not sad for Rich...I'm sad for those he leaves behind. I'm sad as I feel the emptiness his death has caused. But Rich? He is so happy. The more I've been listening to his music today, the more I hear it. That longing in his voice becomes so plain. The awesome love for an Awesome God just drips from his every word. Imagine the concert in Heaven tonight as Rich does what he's always wanted to...praise and love God perfectly! It gives me such peace to know where he is. I was listening to "Creed" and realized that there is absolutely NO doubt as to where Rich stood and what he believed. We do not mourn like those that have no hope.

When Diana died....I was sad. I was grieved because we do not know where she went. I was sad for her children and family, but, also for her soul. When Mother Theresa died...I felt bereft of an ever present icon, but, she was old and ready to go. When Rich died...I felt as though another soldier was going home. "Strike up the band, assemble the choir. Another soldier's comin'

home...Be sure that Heaven's table has room for at least one more because another soldier's coming home." (Janet Paschall) He will be definitely missed. But, he has left his mark and a legacy for those that follow behind. He patterned his life after Christ so that we may see him and do likewise. His music will live on as will his ministry. He has greatly influenced me, and I know I'm not the only one. He's home.

Home. Doesn't that sound wonderful. The weary traveller has left the land of his sojourn and has found rest in the Father's arms. I can't wait to join him!

Christy Solly

words could never express the strength, encouragement and joy his music gave me. he was so bold, and he will be so missed.

but i think i can hear the bagpipes and guitar in heaven....

holly

=====

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

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I am deeply grieved over your son's death! He inspired me to pick up the Hammer dulcimer and learn how to play it. But I come not only to thank your son, but also what I believe to be a bigger picture. Your son could be called a martyr. I believe Diana, M. Teresa's death and your son's was used to wake up the world and the Christian Church. God used celebrities in a sense of word to get the worlds attention. It was a heck of a way to go, but I guess the real question is what is God trying to say to us? Who are we to argue? I hope you will not be sad but rejoice that your son was the finest Christian artists I knew. He was not into it

for the popularity and I admire him for that!!!! So many Christian artist's get carried away with becoming a celebrity, and not enough glory to Christ.

Peace. My prayers are with you...

Love,
Teresa Fazzolari

To the Family of Rich Mullins and Mitch McVicker

I never had the opportunity to meet him but I feel like I lost my best friend. At first I was angry. I can't tell you enough of how much his music and his heart and soul that he put into it means to me. But, if anyone was ready to meet God it was Rich.

My prayers continue to be with you, his family and his co-writers family. I hope that you do not lose faith or direction. I am as lost as you. I don't have the answers why God Called him. But I know Rich trusted in God for every thing and I think in our loss of Rich we as well should trust that God has a purpose and we may never know it.

I would like to leave you with some of his lyrics that mean so much to me.

When you love You walk on the water...
Just don't stumble on the waves...
We all want to go there something awful....
But to stand there takes some grace.....
Oh we are not as strong as we think we are....

My soul will miss my brother in Christ until the day we get to meet. Rich you were definitely a man who when he wept was longing for home. You are home my brother. The rest of us will carry on and try to make an impact on others until God calls us as well.

God bless you his family and friends

Love in Christ

John Rehkop

I have never seen my father cry in my nineteen years on this earth...not even when his own mother died. He has never gone to church with our family and yet he has always been spiritually whole. Rich Mullins is responsible for my father's relationship with God. On Friday, September 19, I witnessed my father cry for the first time because a total stranger had died. I shared his sadness. Rich made God seem like a real person...someone who you could walk hand in hand with on the beach. His lyrics comparing Jesus' life to his own touched me deeply. "Did you ever make angels in the winter snow?" "Did you try not to cry when you scraped your knee?" etc. I often wonder about what Jesus was like ever since that song was placed on my heart. Tomorrow in Speech 101, I will give a presentation on a person of my choice. I have chosen Rich Mullins. This is my tribute to you, Rich, because I too want to go out like Elijah.

W. Snow

I like the many thousands across this land, was saddened to hear of Rich going home to be with Jesus our Lord. This is a poem I wrote in memory of Rich and the impact he has made on my life, even in death.

Yours in Christ,
Richard J. Koenig...

Friends They Come and They Go

friends they come and they go
but when i hear that you had left,
i hurt deep inside.

at this i wondered why?

i barely knew you,
and yet you meant so much.
not only to me,
but to all of those you touched.

was it the songs you wrote and sang?
it was this, but so much more.
you got us to raise our voices so loud and clear,
surely you can still hear them now.

you gave of yourself
not only in your words of songs
but to others who had so little and yet so much,
because you had blessed them,
not only with your presence,
but that of our god most high.

yes, friends they come and they go
but you will be remembered
long after you are gone.

rjk 9/25/97

Rich touched my life in a deeply personal and spiritual way. I'll miss him and his zeal for the Lord very much. The things he sang and wrote about profoundly challenged me. The way he has lived his life, has challenged me to live my life more openly and obediently way. I pray that the Lord blesses his family with His peace.

Peace be with you,
Jeff

My birthday is one day before and three years after Rich's (ie Oct. 20, 1958 and his was Oct. 21, 1955). On Sept. 11, 1996, it was diagnosed that the worsening health problems that I've had

for over ten years was a "rare and serious disorder" that is "uniformly fatal" and "progressively lethal if unchecked" --- and the surgery I had in April, which cures 90% of the patients, was unsuccessful for me. The good news? I had the opportunity to donate The New Testament on cassette to the hospital ward, witness to the doctors and nurses, leave Christian magazines and daily devotional guides in the lobby, etc.

When people were surprised that I didn't come unglued at the failed surgery, I was able to explain that I am weak --- which is why God is able to show how if a person who can't watch horror movies because she has nightmares from them and who cries at Disney movies (even if she's seen them a dozen times) can place her faith in Him knowing what's best for her, then anybody can! I am not "strong", just smart enough to realize that He is smarter than me, and I can trust His wisdom. Which is why that although we don't know why Rich "had to go" now, when it seems so soon and we can think of so much more we wanted him to do here on earth, we can only accept the FACT that God makes no mistakes. Satan does try to get us down, but God provides the way to make all things end up to His glory.

Sept. 2, 1997 was the first and ONLY favorable test result since my diagnosis one year ago. The doctors are not very hopeful, but knowing that I may have a brief reprieve before joining Rich, I am trying to get some things accomplished. One thing was volunteering for being coordinator of the annual charitable fund drive at the place where I work (my doctors say no one in my condition would be working, but if I'm going to be in pain anyway, why stay home and dwell on it, where lying around on the couch or in bed would limit the number of people I can share the good news of God's love with?). There will come a time, unless God chooses to heal me, when that is all I can do, but for now, I can and will go to work.

I had dreamed of coordinating the drive before, but as one of the newer employees, thought I should leave it for more experienced staff, and I'd do it some future year. God made it very plain that I might NOT HAVE any future years, so I needed to do it NOW.

I wish all Christians would realize that the time to tell family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about God's love for them is NOW. We never know how long we, or they, will be around. I put on my scheduler at work, as a recurring daily appointment, "Good Morning! Make today count for eternity!" From what I have heard of Rich, that was how he lived, too.

I doubt I'll ever have the talent or opportunity to reach as many as he did, but every life counts --- to God, and so should to us, as His children. None of us has the excuse that we can't make a difference in someone else's life. We can plant seeds, water seeds, add light --- but the growth and end harvest is in God's hands and we quite likely will never fully know if our attempts will be fruitful, but that's not up to us. The doing is our responsibility. The results are in His hands, and to His glory! Will the Bible-on-cassette at the hospital simply gather dust on a shelf? Or will one or more even find salvation because of it? I don't know, and have no control over it. But I planted the seed, as I felt God wanted me to. To any and all who may read this: Rich planted many seeds. Keep watering them, and plant more yourself.

Tamara de Blauw Good

For every person that writes "Rich was the genuine article." or "Rich touched my life." there are probably 1000 people who never saw this opportunity to express their feelings. Please understand how much your son meant to so many.

For me, Rich was a Christian guide. His music and words laid the path and lined it with flowers. His actions and life was the friend walking beside, yet showing me the way. I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS THIS!

Perhaps a true story. When he played a concert in Midland, MI, I took a friend and my mom. Mom has never been too keen on my Christian beliefs and Christian music, but she went to this concert because I came to town just for this. So she dresses up

and prepares for a typical concert. With blue jeans and bare feet, Rich gave no ordinary concert. After a two hour concert, Rich just goes on and plays requests. Every once in a while, he'd mess up and comment on how all his songs start the same or some other quip and just keep on playing. Every once in a while he would play some hymns. That got Mom into it. Rich made sure there were quiet songs and reflection time. He said people shouldn't listen to music more than an hour a day. Mom LOVED that. Three hours and some change later, the entire audience felt a personal bond with this amazing man who gave God all the glory. As we gave him a standing ovation, the clapping was for both Rich and our awesome God.

Rich turned my mom. He gave her the gift of understanding. I can't thank him enough for showing her a glimpse of true religion. I can't thank you enough for raising Rich the way that you did. I can't give enough glory to God.

Rich will forever be my favorite singer and songwriter. His ministry went beyond music; his ministry will live on. Your Rich entered heaven on my birthday. This is significant only in that Rich made real the joy and need to live for God before we join God. I pledge to live for God as your son did.

With absolute deepest sympathy,
Jeff Fosnaugh

I had the privilege of attending several of Rich's concerts in the Columbus area over many years. His music deepened my walk with the Lord and I thank him for it. Once or twice I was able to speak with him and was glad to learn that he was the same on stage or off. But it's his lyrics that most profoundly influenced me. What a legacy they are!

Brad

My thoughts and prayers are with Rich's family at this time. For Rich, well, he's finally found somewhere he can call his country. He's no longer "lonely for his home". Goodbye Rich, thank you.

Yours,
Fraser Speirs

Rich was ripped from our fragile planet and I know he landed in the arms of Jesus. This helps of course but our selfish human nature wants him hear, to listen to his message, to hear his words, to feel the presence of God in a room filled with concert goers. I may have felt sadness with the losses of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa but my heart was torn apart when I learned of the going home of Rich.

What joy his music brought to me and my family. His words and music helped to bring my husband to his knees before God. My Edward professed his faith in Jesus Christ and he preferred to watch and listen to Riche's music over the thousands of albums, CD's, and videos he possesses. We wept as we watched on video Rich perform "Hold Me Jesus" and repeat the words...Hold me Jesus, cause I'm shaking like a leaf. You have been King of my glory won't you be my Prince of Peace. We turn to you Jesus, please ease this horrible shock and hold Rich in your arms until we can all be together at the greatest concert of all...heaven.

To Riches family, friends, and band members we pray for Gods peace for each of you as you grieve the empty place in your lives. I know my evening drive home with a Rich Mullins tape in the cassette deck will never quite be the same.

God Bless,
Zana Castillo
Garden Grove, California

Thank you Rich...you will never know how much your God inspired words touched my life and my heart over and over again. Thank you for being God's chosen beacon in the darkness. Thank you Lord for Rich..thank you Rich...

David

After many hours spent in delight and tears listening to Rich's music, I got to spend a few hours talking with him and working with him. He came to Indianapolis for a workshop production of "Canticle of the Plains"--Sam Howard acted as the producer. It was a great blessing to share time and thoughts with Rich, and to see him in the twists and turns of the creative process. It was great to have the chance to tell him how much his work had ministered to me.

My wife and I began to sponsor a "Compassion Child" many years ago because of Rich's involvement with that organization.

I had often thought, before meeting him, that Rich would certainly understand me if we should meet. His music seemed to make that clear to me, and it turned out to be true in many ways. "Behold how good and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity" comes to my mind. It was GOOD and PLEASANT to see the ideas and experiences I had in common with Rich--sometimes even startling. It was also good to observe our differences and the gaps between us.

I loved him then, after a long time of loving his ministry in music. I look forward to seeing him again, across the border and beyond the boundaries.

Jim Stark

A week has gone by and there are still no words that can express my sadness over the loss of one of the greatest Christian singer/songwriters that ever lived. Rich never placed himself

above the common people in the audience. He remained one of us and wrote songs that could inspire and challenge us to live the life God wants us to live. God gave him a gift and he used it for God's glory. The message never got lost in the "show." Though I never had the opportunity to meet Rich personally I feel as though I know him through his music and I thank God that the message of the music will live on. Rich left a legacy that I hope will be a challenge and an encouragement to all of us. We never know when we will be called home and what kind of legacy will we leave? We may never have the opportunity to reach thousands of people at one time but all of us do have the opportunity to reach one at a time. Mrs. Mullins, thank you for sharing your son with us. His ministry was and will continue to be a blessing and his music will continue to reach the lost for Christ.

Kathleen Bierlitz

The news that Rich Mullins had been fatally injured in a car accident stunned me. I had the opportunity to work with Rich one night when he first began going to small church's in 1986, I think it's when it was. I ran the sound for Rich while singing for the congregation at the Mt. Washington Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio. I still have the tape of that concert. AWESOME!! Rich's talent and love for God will be missed by many. Please know that you, his family are in my prayers.

May God bless you RICHly
Donald L. Smith
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rich Mullins is a gift from God. The world is a better place because of the contributions which Rich gave. We love Rich and will miss him! May God continue to bless Rich and his family always! His music is like food for my soul and I thank God for the blessing of Rich Mullins in our lives.

Joseph Prosser

I only knew Rich Mullins through two songs, through renditions by other vocalists ironically: "Awesome God" and "Sing Your Praises To The Lord." Through Rich's songs, especially these praise classics, Rich will continue to minister to young people down through the ages, and that is a legacy that befits this man of God. I know these songs have touched me, as they will continue to touch others.

Greg

The death of this great man who did so much for so many through his uplifting music is a shock to me and many others who live in Columbia, MO. We will miss him, but knowing that he has passed on to a much better place eases the pain that we all feel in our hearts. Through his music, I came to know Christ better. His powerful words combined with beautiful music brought me to Christ.

Even though he is gone, he lives on in the hearts of many. Many people miss him and will miss him. His music will continue to play in my heart forever. My prayers are with his family and friends and all who loved him. Mr. Mullins, I will miss you. And thank you for what you have done for me.

Ryan Grindstaff
Columbia, MO

My name is Kirby Francis, I am a 21 year-old History and French Major in New Brunswick, Canada. Rich's music has meant much to me at times in my life when decisions needed to be faced, or times at which I had a profound sense of the Lord calling me to deepen my relationship with Him. I never found his work melancholy or dark-

-his songs are simply expressions of a man who missed his home, and wanted others to have the hope he had, of one day returning to the Lord who gave us birth. My deepest condolences on the loss of your son, and many thanks to our Master for allowing us to be blessed by him.

In His love,
Kirby Francis

sad to hear of mullin's death, there have been so many this year... and everyone seemed to touch our lives... all I know is life can be so cruelly short and we have to redeem the time by serving God, in the service of man..."God please help me be a person of destiny fulfilling the goodness of your heart, maybe then death by any means will not be that hard to bare!! Love you god Help us all serve you better...Rich you will be missed till we meet again before HIM.

s bewaji

This is one of those bittersweet experiences that we all go through. We're happy that he's gone to his reward, we're sad that we have been separated at least temporary. But, this is all according to plan. His passing, our grieving, in his death we should all redouble our efforts to pick up where he's left off and become active members of Christ's body. God allows me to feel sadness and for now that will have to do. I will miss his music and his ministry a great deal.

--Kevin Bushman

For the last 10 years the music of Rich Mullins has inspired and encouraged me in my Christian walk. One song in particular comes to mind as I mourn his passing. A year ago, my mother was in a

near fatal car accident. As she lay in the Critical Intensive Care Unit for over a month, I listed to "Sing Your Praise to the Lord" every morning on my way to work. At that time, I couldn't understand God's plan, but I could lift my voice in praise to an awesome God. I know that that is what Rich is doing now. Thank you Rich for being God's instrument. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Mullins family.

Sharon Schuster
Charlotte, NC

Words can not do justice to the impact Rich Mullins has had on many believers walks with the Lord, including mine. "If I Stand" is my favorite song. Rich had a great Holy Spirit-inspired gift to reach people where they were with the joy and struggle of living for Christ.

M Nienow

I want to send out my condolences in the loss of Rich. He will be missed by many people.

Sincerely in Christ,
Frank Kinehan

My husband interviewed Rich at Sonshine in Willmar Minnesota a couple of years ago-My job is to edit the video. What touched us was his humility, and his joy in praising the Lord-he was truly a happy man in his ministry. We grieve his loss, but we both rejoice that he is now with the One of whom he sang praise!

Bonnie & Ray Gauthier

I was never able to attend one of Rich's concerts, and I never had the opportunity to shake his hand. Physically we never met, yet he has inspired me, he challenged me, he has made me laugh and he has made me cry and this without ever meeting...and I feel the loss. How much greater the loss to those who truly knew Rich Mullins, to you go my deepest sympathies.

Peter Gallagher

Hello,

I am very aware that as I write to you, my words inevitably will be clumsy, fumbling all over themselves. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to write some note of condolence at this sad time....

I never met Rich. But I, like so many others, have mourned for him. As a graduate student in Theatre, I've paid close attention to the quality and integrity of his art. And while his artistry certainly deserves admiration, he always seemed to re-direct focus away from himself as "performer" towards God the Creator. He was unpretentious in his expertise.

As a fellow disciple, I resonated with his honesty. I so much appreciated the way he admitted his struggles --- while at the same time continuing to grapple all the same, "working out his salvation." He had this way of exposing the fleeting frailty of this life, simultaneously revelling in its extreme richness and beauty. Two of my favourite songs are "Green" and "Hold Me Jesus."

He spoke the truth --- gracefully, lovingly, beautifully. He was someone obviously in love with Christ. And this fragrance of a life offered to God permeated his music and concerts --- as he "poured out" his strengths, and acknowledged his weaknesses.

I guess I'm saying that I will miss the encouraging, challenging

way he held out the Word of life. And the beauty of his music.
And the spontaneous sense of fun and joy he exuded.

I am grateful for the way God used him in this life. And I
definitely will be praying for those who were closest to him.

Yours as a sister,
Julie Gonnering

there are things that people don't talk about because they feel so
out of step with the rest of society, certain feelings and needs
we just don't have the words to express, like the way I felt God
when living on the plains, and the power of the "howling" that
when I look at creation, that which pulses on the ocean...Rich had
the words to express what I felt, and I felt so much less lonely.
These past few years have been so difficult spiritually, Rich's
music has been the only connection that I have had with the
faithfulness and love of God. There have been times when, with
tears pouring down my face, I have held my breath to hear Rich
sing to me Truth... It breaks my heart to say "good-bye". But
our God is faithful, He will continue to provide for us. Rich was
if anything and honest man, and we know by his music, that he is
rejoicing!

Leeann Kelley

To Rich's family and friends

I just learned of Rich's passing, and I am so sorry. The trueness
of his words and heart shone through like so few others. His loss
to the Christian music world equals that of Keith Green or Mark
Heard. My wife and I send our condolences to all who knew him.
Thanks, Rich, for showing us your heart, and a little piece of the
place you are now in.

Darren Friesen

I, too, wake up each morning hoping it's all a bad dream. There's a hole in my heart for a man I've never met, a man I saw once in concert in Jackson, MS, and have grown to love through his music, his words. I remember listening to "Hold me Jesus" as I drove to the hospital where my dad was having open heart surgery, and I remember listening as my daughters (my step-daughters) played "Hold me Jesus" over and over and over during a particularly hurtful time with their alcoholic birth-mother. I remember dancing in my kitchen to "creed" and singing "you gotta get up" again and again with my children as we drove to my mother's on Christmas.

But, not only was there the ministry of his music, there was the talent, the extraordinary musicianship--he was a musician's musician. There are those who write wonderful words with decent melodies, or beautiful melodies with decent words--he was one of the precious few who could do both, and exceedingly well. "Oh, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll. The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend-- 'Even so,' it is well with my soul."

"When all of God's singers get home, Where never a sorrow will come, There'll be no place like home When all of God's singers get home."

In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore,
Rich, auf wiedersehen!

Greg Russel

I don't even know how to express what I am feeling but I wish I could change what happened that night. I am sure if Rich had to choose between his life and Mitch's, he would gladly give up his life for his friend. Again, he is only doing what the Lord said

we should do. I never met Rich personally but I went to every concert he had in Pa. and wished I could have met him personally. He is truly an inspiration and a man who loved our Lord. I loved him like I never loved anyone. One couldn't help but love him. I pray daily for his family and for Mitch and his family. I realize I have eternity to spend with Rich and just talk with him. I am so touched by all the people who also cared for Rich. I didn't realize how many others there are. I am ready for the Lord to come back now! I keep reminding myself that he was only on loan here for a little while and that Jesus wanted him back. I've never cried so much especially for someone that I never met .

To Rich's mom- thanks for raising such a wonderful godly man.

sharon

I knew Rich Mullins from Rock Lake Christian Assembly, a christian church camp in Vestaburg, MI. Rich was our choir director for one very special week in August for years. We got to know him quite well. Every summer for years, I looked forward to going to camp. He was a ball to be around. We all loved him and admired him. The times that I spent up at RLCA are some of my fondest memories...a big reason as to why I still follow God (not to mention that God is faithful! :-)

One time that I can remember is that we were in the middle of some serious praise time. I mean serious. The boys sat on one side, the girls on another--serious. Rich gave a small concert; spoke; then we all just prayed together, and if someone felt like breaking out in song--you just went for it. Well, it was really quiet. People were crying. So my friend and I decided to sing "Just as I am"...only it came out in the tune of "Amazing Graze". Rich stood up, busted out laughing, pointed us out to everyone, and said something like, "isn't it just like God...to put a little laughter in our hearts at heavy times."

God truly blessed this man. May there be many more like him! And

to Rich, "I am so jealous! You did great things for God and now you are with HIM! I'll be missing you for now."

ART

To the Family of one of the greatest men of God,

I found out about Rich's death the Sunday after it occurred. I spent the entire two hours before church in tears. At church, a young girl sang Awesome God accompanied by the piano. I had to bow my head to hold back the tears as they began to flow once more. Rich was greatly loved by all Christians. His music has been the most touching and "real" that I've ever heard. My 2 most favorite are "Let Mercy Lead" and "If I Stand." I will miss his work greatly, as will all of the Christians in the world whose lives were touched by his music. As my mother told me to comfort me in his death, God finally decided that he needed one of the best there with him in heaven to hold an eternal concert for him. Sincerely,
Blake Hill (Wichita, KS)

By faithfully sharing the incredible gift God had given him, Rich left this world a better place than he found it. While I mourn his homegoing, I'm so thankful God loaned Rich to us for this brief time.

Karla

I can hear in the distance of heaven, the joyous sound of Rich's voice in harmony with Jesus's choir. Please let your heart feel the joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Although we feel sorrow and grief at this time, we know that one day, a very joyous day, we will be united as one big family. No pains, no sorrows, only joy, joy, joy!!! Praise God for the time you had to share with Rich on

this earth! Praise God for the Eternity you'll share in heaven.
May the peace of Jesus give you the strength to smile tomorrow.

God Bless You.
In Christian Love,
Sheila Brown
Channelview, Texas

Today, Rich sings in "His" presence. I can imagine a host of
angels backing Rich singing "Awesome God".
Conley

Rich Mullins will be remembered as a very compassionate man in
Macon, Ga. He came here to perform a concert at Mable White to
raise money for the major flood we had in July 94'. I will never
forget how he ran thru the crowd singing a song about seeing God's
face everywhere he goes. His music has touched my life and "broke
me" even at my most calloused state.

Kip Dekalb

I was dumbfounded when I heard the news, a week late. The local
radio station was scheduled to do a tribute to him but I had
missed the reason why. In the music industry we get sent all
kinds of promotional interviews and such from the record company
and I guess I figured that this was one of those things. I
mentioned the lyrics to "Elijah" to my fiance and thought it
fitting. I listened to the tribute and did okay until they played
it. Then I did nothing but bawl the rest of the way to work. His
work meant so much to my friends and I when we were in college,
especially "Awesome God" because it is so true. Please accept my
deepest heartfelt sympathies on the loss of an incredible
Christian brother, and fellow teacher. I never met him

personally, but like many others knew his heart by the lyrics he wrote. He will be missed but the knowledge that he is where he rightly belongs continues to comfort me.

Brandy Myers

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. --Jer 20:9

This verse reflects the life of Rich and my dear friend and favorite writer Hudson Russell Davis who was greatly inspired by Rich. I know he was only one of many.....here is what he wrote after Rich's death.

I'll Carry On

A hero has fallen and a prince has gone home
This world, far from being able to contain
Could hardly restrain the heart of an artist
The bursting eloquence of a poet
The soulful songs only hearts could interpret
Beneath the sky of hopeful promises
Beneath stars as numerous as sand
Canyons and cliffs oceans and caves
Not a crevice, crag or corner exists
From which sorrow does not seep
And still, it is the sound of joy which arrests me

So now there are stories untold and songs unsung
..they will go untold, and will remain unsung

More than just a poet and musician
He was a man of God, real and honest
He sang of sorrow, pain and frustration

The reality of living, the real struggle of real hearts
In a real world that is often unforgiving
But nothing was more pervasive in his music than faith and joy
Infectious, idealistic, joy of a real life set to music
And a real God, existing in the mist of it all

A sentinel, a herald, a lighthouse and a beacon
It is as he would have wanted it I think
That his beacon did not lead to his music nor to himself
But to The One whom he called "The Maker of Noses."
To the Gospel of which he said,
"I did not make it, No it is making me.
It is the very truth of God not the invention of any man."

I couldn't help but see in his life a hope
A lived promise, an enduring faith
And wisdom sucked from life at every turn
He ran the good race and finished well
If I have learned nothing else from Rich Mullins
I have learned to seek the source and not the vessel
The Master not His servant...no matter how great the servant

For all you have given, for all you have done
A fond farewell...till we meet again...

"But I'll carry the songs I learned when we were kids
I'll carry the scars of generations gone by
I'll pray for you always and I promise you this
I'll carry on, I'll carry on" Rich Mullins
--Hudson Russell Davis

Trina Elrod

I Would Like to sent my condolences to the Mullins Family, and to
thank them for sharing the life of Rich with all of us. We all
were truly blessed by the music and ministry of Rich Mullins.

I first saw Rich (and Mitch) in concert on August 15th 1997 in Plymouth, Michigan what a wonderful evening it was. I really feel blessed that I along with my family to have been able to attend that concert, when I think of Rich I think of Rich I get a vision of that night and the Joy that he had as he sang the songs that gave praise to God. I was really impressed with the life of Rich he wasn't a phony he was true to his God not only through his words but through his life and today it is really hard to find people who are in the public eye that don't promote themselves but promote the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we all that miss Rich would pick up his causes what a better world this would be, and what great joy Rich would have in heaven as he looks down from above at us. Let us not just say how sad it is that Rich is gone from this world, let us say that through the things that we do that He through his Ministry lives on. It is my prayer and challenge to everyone that we work in the memory of Rich Mullins to see to it that his works are continued, yes we will always have Rich through his music, but we need to keep up with his mission in life.

I also wish to send get well wishes to Mitch, It is my prayer that you are soon restored to full health and that you continue to sing your praise to God, You are very good so I pray that you continue to sing and that we are soon enjoying more of your music and some day that you might write a tribute to your friend and mentor Rich. I really believe that this is what he would want for you, May God Bless you and return you to perfect health real soon. We love you Mitch, get well

Pat Seyuin

Rich Mullin's music was truly an inspiration to me and my family. It helped bring us closer to God and closer to each other. The world is missing someone who provided so much simply by doing something that he loved- praising God.

Matt Steele

Cincinnati, OH

My sincerest condolences to the Mullins family, to Beaker, and to Rich's sponsored children, students and friends. I pray for God to send his soothing balm to Mitch McVicker and Gregory Lea. And I want to send a warm embrace to my brothers and sisters in Christ with whom I have shared wonderful evenings in the Spirit with Rich. I have warm memories of graduate school at Kent State and of the important part Rich's music and concerts played in the structured lives of myself and my friends. My most cherished memory is of the night Rich taught us how to make it rain. Rich, I admired you very much and I will miss your presence in this world.

Tamra

Dear Family and Friends of Rich Mullins,

Rich was an important person in my life. For at least the past 6 years I have listen to his music. I found that there was a person in this world who thought and prayed a lot like myself. I can't tell you how many times his music would transport me to the heavens. I know that I have grown deeply from his music and I will miss him very much. I will always remember him and you all in my prayers. I feel for your lost of such a beautiful man.

Jesus Bless you!

Pat Wardega

Russell, Ohio

The death of this great man who reached out to those who needed reaching out to through his wonderful music is a tremendous blow to the lives of many fans. His work touched the hearts of so

many. We are all saddened by this loss, but we must also keep in mind that Mr. Mullins is now in a better place. He is home. And when our day comes, we shall be reunited with this fantastic man who did nothing but good. Not to mention our Lord. He would want us to get on with our lives and continue to serve the Lord.

This man who I never met, helped pull me out of a raging sea of sin. His beautiful words lifted me from the treacherous waters and into the arms of the Lord. Without this man, I would probably still be drowning in the sea of sin. This sea that swallows up the lives of so many people. We should all do what Mr. Mullins did. Go out into the world and offer our hand to those in need of help.

Mr. Mullins, to you I give this message. You helped pull me out of something that was beginning to destroy my life. I thank you with all of my heart. Without you, and a few others, I would have never come to know the Lord. Your music touched my heart. It reached in through all of the hate, anger, and confusion; it pushed aside all of the things that were killing me and helped me to see the Lord. It helped me to see your "Awesome God". Thank you for all that you did for me. Your influence has pushed me to be a better Christian. Thank you.

Mark Grindstaff

Like countless others, Rich's songs touched me deeply and, most importantly, urged me to think about the wonders of God and my relationship to Him. From what I understood of the man through his songs, Rich was a true disciple whose first priority was fixing his eyes on his Savior. His songs will continue to inspire that kind of commitment for decades to come. Thanks again Rich and praise the Lord for how You worked through his life.

Derek Persson

Its been quite an honor to know and work with Rich through the years. Truly, a genuine God - fearing man to the core, he always had an almost "untouchable" humility that was awesome. His generosity with his songs and with his life will be missed.

Gary Lunn

My first Rich Mullins experience was singing the song "Awesome God" at a youth group when I was 12 or so. It would be years before I learned Rich was the man behind the tune! I learned of Rich himself through the album Strong Hand of Love, a tribute to the late Mark Heard. Shortly after, I bought A Liturgy, A Legacy and a Ragamuffin Band and from then on was a true fan. I'm unable to put into words just what Rich's music meant to me (at the risk of sounding sappy or "uneloquent") but Liturgy, with its thoughtful, spiritual lyrics and folksy, Celtic-ish melodies holds the honor of being one of my favorite albums. And I am a deejay, so I've heard a LOT of music!!! I also own Brother's Keeper, another treasure and I look forward to expanding my Rich Mullins collection and to keeping his music alive. (and playing it constantly on my radio show even though we're not supposed to play Christian music). From what I knew of Rich Mullins the person he was an extremely loving, selfless, Godly man and although I'm deeply saddened by his passing I'm glad to know he is with two other gifted CCM musicians, Keith Green and Mark Heard, singing his praises at the Lord's side.

tammy tillingham

I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet and play with many people from the world of CCM and I have to say that of all of them Rich was the most sincere and down to earth and yet still so completely consumed in God's love. I wish I'd been able to get to know him more. His passing is a very sad loss to us all.

Kris

Rich Mullins was the greatest man alive. he saved my life with
Awesome God

Jeremy

I first became aware of Rich's music by hearing "Screen Door on a
Submarine" on a Tulsa-area radio station; however, it was several
years later after his release of "A Liturgy, Legacy ,..." that I
really came to appreciate and purchase his albums. I will
certainly miss his music and his obvious heart for missions; his
is a voice we sorely need in this materialistic society. It is a
voice I need to hear...

Jim Barnette

When I was a young teen living in Kingsport, Tennessee, our youth
group prepared for a weekend retreat at the local church camp.
One of our ministers at the time, John Turner, had arranged for a
group called Zion to provide the music and devotional material for
the weekend. We weren't quite sure what to think of this one guy
who came in with a stretched out white t-shirt, holey jeans and
bare feet. This guy turned out to be Rich "Chard" (from the
second half of Ri-chard) Mullins. Long story short, he and the
group Zion ended up making a great impact on our weekend with
their music and their message.

When it turned out he agreed to become our interim youth minister
the following summer, we were greatly blessed to get to know him
and his music. I can still remember him working on "Praise to the
Lord" on the church piano, bare feet and all! He stayed with my
family part of the time he was our minister. On weekends, he
would travel back to Cincinnati for retreats and concerts he was

already committed to with Zion. During the week, he had one on one meetings with each of the members of our youth group. He had us memorize scripture. I still have notes in my Bible from that time "memorized with Chard".

He was a special person. His life and his music had a great effect on a lot of people not because of who he was but because Jesus Christ came through so clearly in his music and his life. I will miss his music, but I truly look forward to hearing more of it in heaven someday!

Debbie Sams Poe

I am still having a hard time believing that Rich is gone. But I take immense comfort in knowing where he has gone-- I can't wait until I meet him there!!

Lea Williams

Hold me Jesus---We just can't believe he is gone. His music meant so much to us, and his example.....well, he was a humble man, and man of truth, and he never wavered from that truth. We know God has His reason's for taking him, and we as humans cannot understand. We want to think selfishly, and keep Rich with us for as long as we could. I guess in God's eyes, this was enough. It must mean that there is a bigger purpose for his leaving. We pray for Mitch McVicker, for his healing of his body, and his heart. And we pray for the other band members who must deal with this loss. And of course, for the Mullins family who have lost a son and a brother. God will heal their hearts and ours. That we know.

Linda and Heather

Rich changed my life...he woke me up to my relationship with the Lord and CCM. He will be missed.

Kevin Kitchens

I feel like I've lost a friend, even tho I never actually met Rich in this world. I Know I'll meet him in the next and that brings me comfort at this time of sorrow. Every time I look up at the stars I will remember Rich, and the fact that one of those stars is lit for him, and another for me. I will always be grateful to him for pointing that out to me!

Lisa Hewitt

The spiritual depth, beauty, and originality of Rich's music will be greatly missed by us. Rich's life was a great example of living out one's faith.

Andrea & David Felcyn

Rich Mullins was a true source of inspiration for me when I became a truly, dedicated christian my Junior year of high school. What fascinates me is how music is the key to bringing walls down. Rich did that for me in his music as well as allowing me to do this with others. I continually use his music for my non-christian friends. His music is a great tool for witnessing. It has also been deep encouragement and passion to continue my walk with God. I am so glad that he is in heaven and I will miss his chance to continue to write music and sing for us. God gave the world many special people with talents and I am glad that Rich was one of those people who obeyed and enjoyed his gift. Thank you, Rich for giving to the Lord. ;)

Dionne Melton

Rich Mullins music touched the lives of many, mine included. After the concert I hung around for a little while and actually got to talk to him for a while and what I seemingly understood from the conversation was that I was speaking with a man who had been worn weary by life in this world. I sometimes think that is the one common thing I can say he and I shared. He spent years writing wonderful, spirit inspired music and I wonder if he thought it was useless and not reaching anyone one. I think like a lot of us Christians he wondered if what he was doing for Christ was having any effect on the world. I know more times than not I wonder that. When ever there's someone you work on whether it be to win them to Christ or to help strengthen their walk with Him and it just seems they fight all out as hard as they can you often lose sight of what God has already done through you. I thank God for Rich's life here on earth for without that blessing to all of us I know some was not know the Lord that Rich lived his life and sang his music for.

Matt Baldwin

Rich's music really touched my heart and always helped me work through trials that were occurring in my life. I remember at every one of his concerts that I went to, that it was like an intimate moment with a friend and Rich always had time to talk with you as a brother. I am truly going to miss his music and his personality, but I rejoice in knowing that I will see him again, soon.

Brian Morros

Lord, You gave me Rich's music when I needed You so badly; "Home"

and "The River" and "Step by Step" and all the other ministry oriented, worshipful music made You real to me in that long night. Thank You. Now I learn to live with the music he left, in the knowledge that he will make no more for this age, but in the surer knowledge that he makes Music Eternal even now. I look forward even more than before to singing for You with him in the age to come. I miss him, Lord, but I know he is where he always longed to be, and I am grateful that You let him walk with us for a little while. Deep is the night, and dark here where we walk. Rough road, steep climbing, But You wait at the summit, so we walk. Rich, your walk is over. Rest, at Jesus' feet. Listen as He answers all the questions you put into words for your brothers and sisters. and SING YOUR PRAISE TO THE LORD!

Sunny Ruley

First Baptist Church of Oroville will miss Rich, his songs are some of our favorites both as special music, and congregational singing. I personally feel the loss of such a great writer and performer. He has been an inspiration to me these last few years, and I will miss him very much. The worlds loss is heavens gain, and I'm sure Rich is happier there.

In His Grip,
Jim Lightle

I was lucky enough to meet Rich on a couple of different occasions and was impressed by his true humble spirit. He was not into the whole celebrity thing-he was a true servant with a willing heart to serve God. He was blessed with such incredible musical talent and it was so awesome how he used it for God. To his family: thank you for sharing him with us. To his mother: you raised an incredible son. You are blessed!! I will always remember Rich's legacy and can't wait to meet him again in Heaven.

cheri henley

Rich was an inspiration to us all Rich came to our store on june 20th and was very moving then later that night, put on(along with his ragamuffin)the best concert i have ever seen. I have always been so impressed with his simple but profound ways he had about him and made you feel like a long time friend. Thank you Rich for sharing your gift and may it continue to touch souls for years to come! Thank you for reminding us that Our God Is An AWESOME GOD!!!!!!

melissa beeks

I've loved Rich's music from the first time I heard it. In 1995 on a trip to Arizona and New Mexico my wife and I found ourselves in WindowRock for church. After being invited home by some wonderful people (the Harpers) we found out the "guy" next door just left on a tour or something out of this country. I saw the place next door and couldn't imagine anyone "Rich (sorry) and Famous" living there! After they told us Rich lived next door , I must've had a surprised look on my face because they said they always got that reaction, but if I had met him I would've understood he belonged there.....what a silent testimony.... I'm looking forward to going back to WindowRock soon...I loved it there and can see how Rich was inspired by his Savior....."and it didn't break his heart to say goodbye"....

Rick Koontz

I remember the first time that I saw Rich Mullins in concert I thought he was incredible. His song "Hold me Jesus" meant so much to me when by 4 year old cousin died 3 years ago. I will truly miss his ministry and talent. He was one of my favorite artist. He just seemed so real and genuine. God is truly being blessed by

a great man and a great voice. He went out like Elijah.

Shelley Weaver

I was surprised and saddened to hear of Rich's death. My husband was the same age, and just went to heaven on April 4th of this year. I 'm sure they are enjoying being in God's presence without all the weights of this world. I will be remembering his family in prayer - it is hard to stay here when your loved ones are gone, but we know that we have said goodbye one last time to them - next time we see them there will be no more goodbyes!!

Linda Downey

I was real sorry to hear of the tragedy I will hold the family up in prayer, it such a pity that Rich's life was snatched away at such a young age. Makes us all need to sit back and evaluate our own lives and standings with the Lord Jesus Christ. I can't wait till that day when we will hear all his new releases on that great and glorious day that we too will get to go home to be with our Lord. Rich you will be truly missed, but you have fought a good fight and you have finished the race, and oh what an impact you have caused in the hearts of many and will continue for years to come. Lord, I lift up the family to you right now show them the love that you have for them wrap your arms around them and comfort them during there loss, and Lord I thank you for the talent you gave Rich and that he was a willing vessel to be used by you to further your Kingdom, Amen

David N Rice

I really like the song, "Our God is an Awesome God"--it reminds me of the majesty of God. I heard it also on the Brownsville Revival CD, and it brought a special anointing. My friend, David Rhodes

really liked Rich's music, in fact he had ALL of his releases!! That's how I really became acquainted with who he was. He will be sorely missed. I also like, "Step by Step".

Carol J. Dennis

I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news of Rich's earthly death. At the same time, I wanted to celebrate that he is Home with the God that he loves. Rich's music ministered to me when I first became a Christian and continues to do so now. "If I Stand" and "Hold Me Jesus" still bring me to my knees when I hear them. Rich's songs put words to my own thoughts and feelings that couldn't find a voice of their own. Thank you God, for Rich's life. Thank you for using him to reach out to others and call them to you. Thank you for using him to reach into me. I pray Your Peace, Your Love, and Your Blessings for Rich's family and friends. Also for Mitch and his family and friends. You are an AWESOME God. Thank You. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

Dona Kenly

Since I became a Christian, Rich's music has inspired me. I have felt the Lord working through him gently saying "I'm here." Thank you Rich for your music, and God for his talent.

Emily Hill

He was a man of simplicity and humbleness. He taught me what really mattered in life. My life will always be better because I knew him; he brought me closer to Jesus.

Lyndsay Walker

I feel that Rich Mullins left a varied and heartfelt collection of music. The world will mourn the loss of a great Christian and artist, but he is Home!

Tom Potter

I had the privilege of seeing Rich in concert just 7 weeks ago. I had never been to one of his concerts before, but I was familiar with his music. His concert had an impact on my life. Of all the Christian concerts I have been to, his was by far my favorite. I loved the live band and Rich's personality and love for God and other people was inspirational for me. I only wish that other people could have the opportunity that I had to see his concert. I praise God for the songs He inspired in Rich. I am disappointed that we won't be blessed with more great lyrics, but I thank God for those we do have. The family and friends of Rich and Mitch are in my prayers.

Alisha Mathews

Rich, Your music meant a lot to me and my family. "Screendoor on a Submarine" was such a cool song and with a refreshing difference. Then, there was "Awesome God" - 'nuff said. The most incredible album you ever put out was "The World as best as I remember it, Part I" - "Step by Step", "Where You are", "Calling out Your Name", "Who God is gonna use" and "I see YOU", are the most memorable songs to me and spoke volumes of Rich's faith and musical genius. Too many songs to remember. Thanks for all the inspiration. May God comfort all of Rich's family, friends and fans during this terrible time of trial. May the Peace of God and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you all, in Jesus Name, Amen.

Allan Chesshir

Rich is experiencing everything he worked towards right now. We will all miss him. I used to sit for hours just reading his lyrics. I don't think any other artists' death could have so much of an impact. He was a real person, told us he was real, showed us he was real, and was such a great teacher. He is gone, but we shall be with him in Heaven...all of God's children who are waiting for their hope to be revealed.

Allison Courtney

I have been touched. I share the pain of his friends and family. I know what it is like to lose a brother. Now I have lost another brother. I will miss you, Rich

peter timothy nikkel

so God has saw fit to take Rich home. We are without a wonderful songwriter and story teller now. His was the only christian songwriter I really liked. He was so honest and it came form the heart when he sang. God bless you Rich. We pray for Mitch's recovery and both of their families. Thank you God for Rich.

david and deborah steele

I knew Rich when we attended Bible College in Cincinnati. He was older and I was just a freshmen. We never even talked but I always felt I knew him and we had many mutual friends. It's a sad, sad day. Yet my faith is in a loving Lord who will use Rich's life as a catalyst for a much greater good. I love you Rich.

Chris Irwin

His music touched me in special ways because you could tell Rich really knew God and understood what a relationship with him is supposed to be.

Cindy Vaughn

In the twinkling of an eye, Rich Mullins experienced that Awesome God that we can only dream about!

Annabel

Our prayers and thoughts go out to the Mullins family. All we can do is thank the Lord God Almighty for the short time we were blessed with the gift He had given to Rich. His music brought healing, life and joy to our hearts. God bless the Mullins family, and may the Holy Spirit comfort as only He can.

Allan & Becki Chesshir

I was truly inspired by the music of Rich Mullins. From the first time that I heard him with Hold Me Jesus, to listening to the older sounds of his Awesome God. I still have a copy of his personal article from a year ago in Release Magazine when he talked the about the Momentary things of life. That still to this day makes me stop to think of how precious this moment of life is. His words and music have inspired me to continue to write my own, and to do the work that God wants me to. Thank you Rich for your life. And thank You God for letting me hear you through his ministry. I will never be the same!

Eddie Irwin

Over the years the group I sang with, THE JOYFUL NOISE, used a lot of Rich's music. He was a blest and "awesome" composer. He must be enjoying singing his "praises to the Lord" around the throne.

With love,
Wendy Geagan

I was very inspired and touched by Rich. I performed his songs many times. A dear brother that is now in a far better place. This world will miss Rich Mullins.

CHRIS COTE

We loved Rich Mullins very much. He was one of the primary influences in our spiritual lives. He ministered to us both and was an instrument of God's mercy and love through his music. Although I personally have had several problems with the Church I have never failed to be blessed by Rich's music. He displayed a wicked sense of humor and a joy that will be sorely missed. I am praying for his family and friends in their time of a much greater personal loss. Because of the struggles I have been having with religion, Rich will be sorely missed. He was truly a voice in the wilderness that pointed to the Truth. And like Mark Heard is gone too soon.

liza murdock

Rich Mullins- what can you say? He was one of the few modern

Christian musicians that kept a servant's attitude and put his Lord before his career. I've seen many concerts but sadly, never had the privilege of attending Rich's. And yet ,death where is your sting?? I'll see you Rich with a choir of angels backing you up whenever we meet in heaven! Thank you for your inspiration.

Music always says so much about a person. Christian music usually says a lot about a person's walk with the Lord. I was always impressed by the way you could put the truth of the Word into songs, that really touched and at times really convicted me. You will be missed, but your music lives on. Thanks brother for a wonderful legacy. I look forward to meeting you in glory.

Marilyn Cryder

Having recently seen Rich Mullins in concert, what amazed me about him was not only his love of music and the heartfelt lyrics that he was inspired to write but it was his ability to make even the most amazing! How many of you ever were a part of the audience when, with your help, he made it sound like it was raining indoors by just having us use our hands and clapping or snapping? He was able to teach me to love the rain because God made it for a purpose. Without it, grass would wither and flowers would not grow. For this simple thing, Rich will be remembered fondly by me.

Miriam da Luz

Spiritually, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, but musically I must say that you(rich) were one of my greatest teachers. Your boldness to speak the truth-not american christianity's truth of who Jesus is but the biblical truth of who he is. Also the truth concerning the normal christian life- Although we talked for merely 2 minutes behind some curtain with your music playing in

the background I count it a privilege to have met you- I pray that someone else will pick up the mantle that you left here.... maybe me, maybe many of us. Hopefully many of us.

Rob Reider

We would like to thank Rich Mullins' family for sharing him with us. God has deeply blessed us through his ministry and we are saddened by your loss.

Jared and Leah

Rich's music blessed a lot of people. He will be greatly missed.

Tammy Novak

Sing for us the praises unto God for us at His throne. Tell others we'll be there soon. God Bless.

ann m. maner

His music has helped me get through some hard times in my life. He was one of a kind. There will never be another Rich Mullins. He was a truly humble man. His love for the lord spoke loud and clear in his music. I loved to listen to him talk. His voice was so cool!! I have seen his concerts several times. I will miss see him. I know he is with the lord.

Renee Mancuso

words and lyrics were and will continue to be beyond meaningful in my life. I'm only 21 years old but I can see the rapid decay of people's hearts and minds in this world. However, Rich, through his music, brought the realness and truth of the Scriptures into the lives of so many people -- something that is a rare thing today, even in some Christian music. It has been refreshing for me to have known of this great man and to have seen Christ's victory in his life... and to KNOW that Christ still has the victory, even in his death.

Julie Wimmer

I love you Rich and want to let all know that your music was a daily inspiration to you.

samuel shea

I hardly know where to begin. I did not get to see him in concert because he rarely played in this area. One night he played in Richmond and I had called the church to reserve tickets at the door (they didn't take credit cards). I had to work that day and left work as soon as I could get out at 6PM. The instructions given us to get to the church where the concert was held were so poor that when we got there they had given our tickets away because we were late and the tickets were naturally in great demand. I actually took a chance and sneaked past the "guards" to the balcony to catch a glimpse of Rich on stage. My youngest son who was about 10 or 11 then had followed me and reprimanded me for doing something that was obviously, even to a child, dishonest. Of course we had to leave.

I know Rich is with the Lord and is experiencing the ultimate in peace and joy and for that I am grateful. I lift his family and those who knew him on a more personal level up because I can imagine how they feel. I feel cheated because I never saw him in

concert, I had actually hoped to meet him some day. I had written a couple of letters and in one had invited him to drop in for dinner anytime he was in our area. I sent him a note years later and told him the offer still stood. I guess I didn't expect to hear anything back but he seemed like such a regular guy that I thought I could just ask and he'd stop by some time.

His lyrics were so thought provoking and his music original. The arrangements of those songs were some of the most creative I have heard especially in Christian music. I never tired of his music and always looked forward to the latest album. A few years ago my cat of 5 years had to be put to sleep and I cried like a baby. My husband went out and bought me the latest CD "Brother's Keeper" to comfort me. That was the first time he, my husband, had bought a Rich Mullins release before me. I'll have to wait to introduce myself to him in eternity... I was a big "fan" from his first album and will miss his music so much. I don't know why the Lord took him now instead of later but I guess no one needed my opinion, I see through a glass darkly...

Kathy Tatler

Although I had just gotten into the Contemporary Christian Music in the past couple of years, I Really liked the message that Rich conveyed. He really had the Heart of Christ, and he showed it also. I think that he will be greatly missed because of his love for christ. We will all miss him.

Kevin Abner

Rich Mullins was my favorite CCM artist for two reasons. Firstly, I always felt that his music was written as praise, not as entertainment. There are very few artists (even the CCM ones) that I believe write ALL their music as praise to the Father. I believe that every song that I have ever heard Rich sing was a

praise, and that he would have sung them to the Lord even when he was by himself. Secondly, his lifestyle backed up his music. His passion for ministry and his humble servanthood was a shining example in the industry. I never heard of Rich Mullins doing anything that would have destroyed or even damaged his witness for his Savior. In short, he was a godly man, bent on serving his Lord with his actions and his music. My prayers go out to his family, friends, and fans who are hurting. May the Lord use his death as effectively as He used his life. Adios for now, Rich!

Casey Harl

I just wanted to say his songs showed so many different facets of his love for God and God's love for us. I will miss his messages, but we do have the songs he left behind. Just imagine being able to "sing praise to the Lord" face to face!

Mary Dulaney

I have been a Rich Mullins faithful ever since "Winds of Heaven..." in '88. To hear that he had gone to be with the Father was a hard blow at first. The Jordan is no longer waiting...he is home. I will miss anxiously awaiting the announcement of a new album. I remember before I asked my wife to marry me, the last stipulation I had was that she like Rich's music. We both shed a tear to "Maker of Noses" together. It was the first time she had heard him. The conclusion of the matter of him passing on for both my wife and I is that with the knowledge of how Rich blessed our lives with his faithfulness and talent, it would be an injustice not to carry on his "simple yet profound" type of Christianity.

God blessed us with him for a short while, now those of us who are left must be an example to those who are to come. Having the privilege to meet Rich on many occasions, the one thing that I would say about knowing him is that the value he placed on other people as well as himself was based on one fact, that there was a

God who pursued us all tirelessly and with passion, and that as believers we all wore the same blood.

Peace of Christ to you all until we meet on the other side of the Cross...

Stacy and Mendy Warner
Dallas, Texas

Rich Mullins was not only a great musician but an incredible minister. He spoke and people tended to listen simply because he spoke from his heart. He will be truly missed because he was truly loved.

Shannon Ballard

I loved the music Rich wrote. I never heard anything that didn't touch me in a special way.

Pam Haden

I discovered Rich's music about a year after I became a Christian. Since then, many of his songs have lifted my eyes to Jesus. His faith was simple, yet deep. And his honesty about life and confidence in God's unyielding grace have encouraged my own walk with Christ. I will miss him.

Mark Zeigler

I never really allowed myself to be introduced to Rich's music other than by the radio. Even then, I never paid it much

attention. After working at Kanakuk one summer, I gave myself another chance to commune with the Spirit through Rich's music. Ever since, "Calling Out Your Name" has held a special place with me. I only own one CD of his so I guess you wouldn't call me a true "fan". But I was, and still am, a fan of the discipline and courage Rich put himself through just to serve God to the best of his ability. What a soldier! Even though the shell for his soul is gone, we know he is just having a blast singing praises in the Heavenly chorus. Let it be of some comfort that he left behind his music to continue his ministry for those of us who knew him, knew of him, and for those who have yet to hear the first note played on Rich's hammer dulcimer. Thank you, Rich. See you in heaven!

Michael Haden

Rich Mullins has been my favorite Christian musician for years. I always marveled at his sincerity, and that his heart never grew to desire fame and fortune despite his success. I feel confident that his ministries to the Navajo people have made a significant eternal difference already. What a kind man, and what a kind God we serve that he gave the gift of music in the first place. See you on the other side, Rich.

Lewis Burton

I became a Rich Mullins fan just less than one year ago. I never met the man or attended one of his concerts. But, he was without a doubt my favorite CCM artist. Rich's obvious passion for Jesus was what caught my eye. I can see Jesus through his music. No matter what I am feeling, I can always find a Mullins song to minister to me. I know Rich had a love for teaching children. He never knew it, but I frequently use his songs in my Bible study class to help my students (youth) grasp the lesson for the day. Rich touched my life and the lives of the youth I teach through his music and he will continue to do so. Rich left a beautiful

legacy...one of eternal things. Rich...I'll see you on the other side of the Jordan one day. Trish Patterson New Orleans, Louisiana

Trish Patterson

What do you say when you lose someone who meant so much? I never knew Rich personally, but I loved him and his music. He touched my life in a way no other individual has. I will miss him greatly! But I know that he is right where he always wanted to be and with that I rejoice with him. This is our loss, not his. And heaven is better for having him.

In Christ,
Janet

"When You start this world over again from scratch
Will You make me anew out of the stuff that lasts
Stuff that's purer than gold is and clearer than glass
Could ever be
Can I be with You? Can I be with You?"
Rich Mullins - Be With You

Your prayers have been answered, Rich. See ya when I get there.

Rich Mullins was a profound artist whose music touched me greatly. He is now with our Living God in Heaven. Praise be to God for his music and ministry. "The Jordan is waiting for me to cross thru" -- he has. I pray for his family and his friends.

In Mourning & In Christ,
Bob Agans

I am deeply saddened by the loss of this humble servant of God. I now consider him in the ranks with Keith Green, we will enjoy his music for many years to come but no one will be able to replace him.

Terry L. Richardson

I didn't know much about Rich, but love the song "Our God Is an awesome God" It will live on and on and on

Karen Anderson

The song "Awesome God" that Rich wrote explains it all. That our God is an Awesome God He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!!! I know that Rich will be missed, but I am glad that he is singing in God's heaven choir! Love and Blessings, Melody Highnote

Melody-Anne Highnote

Rich Mullin's music lives on as a testimony to a man who loves God from the heart and serves Him with his life. May we learn much from this servant's legacy - his songs truly are a liturgy to a legacy, left behind by one of Jesus' faithful ragamuffins!

Tim Gibson

As we have ministered to children across this country Rich's music was a tool we had the privilege of using to minister to children, he will be missed but we rejoice that we will see him again.

Rich & Kathy Hartman

I have enjoyed Rich's music for years. I have enjoyed the depth and different levels that are in his music. Other than his most famous "Awesome God" some of my personal favorites are: "If I stand", "The Other Side of the World" and "Screen Door". I will miss him and his music as I know many others will also. One thing I do know, he is bringing joy to the angels and to God. Godspeed Rich!

Dale Crow

We never know when our days upon this earth are over, but we have a place that Jesus went to prepare for us and Rich is there now. Having listened to his music for years and seeing him in concert you could sense the love he had for his savior. He seemed never to chase the spotlight, but was like in his own home when he came to the concert halls. I remember the RAGAMUFFIN concert where at the end we were singing a chorus of one of his songs, and the band members quit playing one at a time and left the stage and the audience was left singing a capella at the end. It was one of the most awesome feelings I have had during my spiritual journey.

Thanks Rich, and our prayers are with the family, friends, and all fans of Rich Mullins. We long for the day when we are to see the glory of Heaven!

Jevol

I've been reading the messages here, and reading through them has been an incredible time to weeping over a man who touched so many lives, laughing over the joy he brought us, and contemplating what to do next. He inspired me so often in his life and music. I can honestly say that I will be one, actively involved in carrying on.

It's so true what one message said. After crying over our loss, they wrote that they did not know Rich personally. However, they cried because they knew his heart. How very true. It is more than we can say about most people we spend each day with. He was an incredible example of God's love lived out in the real world.

His life touched mine so resoundingly, yet so intimately. I have grieved. I have shed the tears. Now, I have to carry on.

Thank you.

Julie

like all christians who have been touch by rich's ministry i am terribly sorry sad to know that he is no longer with us. however, i am also happy because of the obvious, i know God wanted to give rich his reward. the devil has no authority over the children of God, nothing happens to us that has not been planned by our savior. i just wanted encourage his family as they cope with his absence and also stated that i'll pray for a speedy recovery of mitch.

God bless you all.

rafael a. calderon

Rich's music reached the deepest levels of my soul, and ministered to my heart like no other Christian artist ever has. His music was a gift from God to the Body. Praise God for the life he lived...a life led by the guidance of the One who created him. My heart is broken for a man I never met, but felt I knew him in a very personal way. That kind of love can only come from the One who binds us all together in the love of Christ.

Bill

My husband had only listened to Southern Gospel until I introduced him to Rich's music. From then on we had Rich with us everywhere we went, in the car and in our home. We still can't believe he's with the Lord and not here. We're thankful that God shared Rich with us even for this short time.

Love in our Lord,
Darrell & Debbie Friend

Rich's music was the breathe of GOD through a human. Music which looked me in the face and said, "What do you need to change" or "You never realized that awesome aspect of GOD before". The song which impacted me the most was "We Are Not As Strong As We Think We Are". While this song revealed my weakness in the light of GOD, it also reminds me that Rich now has strength immeasurable.

Timothy Veeck

To the Family of Rich Mullins

I never met him. I don't think he ever came to Arizona. He didn't even know that I existed. Yet his music left a lasting imprint on my life. Truly God can use us when we don't even know we're being used.

Your loss is my loss. Your grief is mine as well. Yet we share the same Hope: I will meet Rich one day and thank him for his music.

Stay faithful.
becky

When I first started listening to Christian music, there were a handful of artists who helped to woo my heart for Christ. Rich was one of the first and a personal favorite. The following is a sonnet I wrote as a tribute.

Hold Him Jesus

Your insights tickle my trembling spirit
Your piano soothes my grieving heart
Your gentle voice, I soar when I hear it
We are not as strong as we think we are
But my life's greater for all you've given
I'm wiser for your melodies and words
Inspiration wakes me as I listen
To some of the most joyful sounds I've heard
Flashing, crackling like child of wonder storms
Poking their way through a curtain of clouds
To proclaim victory in a life reborn
I kneel to give thanks, declaring out loud
My God's an awesome God, I know it's true
For the souls He's touched through His gift in you...

To the family of Rich, thank you for your sweet son and brother!

--randy moomaw
Nashville, TN

Thank you Lord for an artist who celebrated that "There IS such a thing as GLORY!" And now Rich is with you, his One True Love. All we Redfords - JAC, LeAnn, Jessica, Jerusha, Jonathan and Ian are deeply grieved at this world's and our own personal loss. Good-bye to the Stuff of Earth and ride now on the Winds of Heaven!

JAC Redford

We are deeply saddened by the loss of someone who so faithfully served the Lord he loved. The first date with my wife was at a Rich Mullins concert in 1993. Not only did that concert rekindle a desire to draw closer to God, but it also allowed me to begin a relationship with the woman who God had chosen for me. I also lost my brother in April of this year in a car accident so I understand your grief and your desire to have him back. It's not selfish to want him back. God has made the world better by putting people around who makes life richer. Once again we are praying for your family.

Love in Christ,
Travis and Beth Dunlap

You know it's weird how things happen. I just 'found' his old albums I had bought years ago (Never Picture Perfect, The World as Best as I Remember it vol 1 & 2), and was beginning to listen to them again. A couple of days ago when I was busing to work and listening to his music on my walkman, I really felt his love and his heart in his songs more than I ever did, and it was so surreal. I remember thinking "wow I had forgotten how good this guy is!"

A few days later I heard about his death (from my brother) and I was shocked beyond belief. I was thinking "I was just listening to him! How can this be?" But it was true, and I couldn't help but think that maybe I *did* hear him that day on the bus... The timing is so weird!

I saw Rich in concert many years ago; it was truly enjoyable! The 3 things I remember most about it was his unusual instruments, the intimacy, and the rain-sound-simulating exercise we did with him (by clapping our hands).

If Rich intended to bring people closer to God with his music and ministry, he certainly did it. He sings of the Love of God, and I have felt it, especially recently when I heard him sing it in my

ear. What a truly remarkable man! I have been blessed! Thank you for your music, your ministry, and mostly your heart for God. You'll be missed!

Connie

I was only introduced to Rich Mullins this year, primarily through his anthology album, Songs. I missed my one chance to see him in concert here in Omaha last February, and am writing to say that if you are or become aware of any video tape of him in concert, whether commercially produced or privately, that could be copied or purchased, I should very much like to at least have that opportunity to become aware of some of what I have missed.

Thank you very much. --
Ellyn Grant

My husband and I both consider Rich among our heroes. His love was both real and readily apparent, his music personal and intimate. His loss was an incredible blow. Our prayers go out to his family as well as his friends and the millions of people who feel the same way we do. Believe me, there is no exaggeration in that number. For every person who contacts you, there are silent hundreds who will miss him.

We pray also for Mitch McVicker and his family.

I can draw some comfort from my personal belief that of all the friends I have lost over the years, Rich was probably the best prepared to meet Jesus.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our feelings. We are so blessed to have had the Rich Mullins experience in our lives, but sad that it had to end so soon.

Mikki Brower

I am yet another who profoundly feels the loss of a "friend" and brother, a mentor and teacher, a comic, a theologian, a mind that boggles me, and a man, oh so human. Isn't that why we all miss and feel the pain of him, who many never got to meet. Grief is real, as is his homegoing. What peace we have knowing he's there, singing on our behalf to the king we all love more because Rich helped us see him clearer. Mrs. Mullins, I am so truly sorry for your pain and rejoice with you as you see a glimpse of his commitment and love for his lovely, beautiful Savior.

Stacy Kronemeyer

I thank God for the time and talents that Rich has shared with so many. He was a great blessing and inspiration to me and many people I know. He accomplished so much in his life, for God and the gospel, he will surely be very greatly rewarded.

SJ

I never knew him personally. I never had the privilege of attending one of his concerts. I never read articles he had written, or heard his radio interviews, or saw any of his video's. But for the last 10 years I have listened to his music more than any other. His songs said the things that were in my heart, that I thought were inexpressible. I have laughed, and cried, and rejoiced, and repented, praised and prayed to his music. I took his music as my own - his songs, the songs of my own heart. Only now am I beginning to see the person he was. Oh, but what a gift he gave me - what a gift God gave us all in Rich Mullins.

Jay Garner

On earth he composed and sang to One he had never seen but had known mightily through faith, almost as from a distant shore. Now he sings to Him he sees, face to face. No longer from a distant shore, for his course now finished has brought him home. With songs so powerful and touching penned only through faith, what must the songs be like now as he sings before the Throne, the angels, and the redeemed from all the ages. I can only wonder..... as from a distant shore.

The Ward Family

When I heard of Rich's death, at first I was alarmed. By the time I could asked what had happened I began to weep uncontrollable tears of joy. My response to my friend was "I'm so jealous!" He is home where he has always wanted to be, where we yet hope to be. Let us rejoice with him!

Debbie Miller

I am just one of the many nameless faces you may never meet...but that was touched by your son's music. In the bleakest hours of a marriage that was ripping apart, shaken by the threat of AIDs, and trying to adhere to Jesus' promises, I would hear your son's conversations with his heavenly Father, and I'd say I can do that too, God. Courage, devotion, forgiveness, love, and empathy are the gifts your son gave me two years ago. And I now have a happy, healthy family that has been given a second chance. Thank you Rich...and thanks to you, his family, for the gift of his life. He did make a difference.

Sincerely,
Ellen Gillis

To the dear family of Rich Mullins,

I want to offer you my sincerest condolences at your loss. I heard of Rich's death last week, and I have been praying for all of you since I heard the news.

What can I tell you of what he meant to me? He was a true inspiration, and his songs have been woven all through my life... In collage I walked around campus singing "...And her sky is just a petal pressed in the book of a memory of a time he thought loved her and they kissed..." and the sky over Mount Humphreys would be a cloud hanging softly close to the ground. And I would think what a cozy world and I would thank God for pouring His beautiful thoughts through Rich Mullins Rich could speak of the loneliness and longing for God and wonder of His creation in a way that touched a deep part of me. The part of me that couldn't bear the same old re-hashed boppy little themes in so much of Christian music.

I loved Rich because he wasn't afraid to be REAL and honest. I loved him for his little white trailer out by Window Rock (A friend and I drove out there once on a whim to find him. We tracked him down, but unfortunately he wasn't home. We both wanted to marry him but that's another story.) I loved him for his old truck and his dog, and the way he quoted C.S. Lewis in his interviews, and I loved him because true poets are so rare. I loved him because in his music, the best part of his heart was apparent and transparent, and in it I could see a man pressing on to live ever closer to the most precious of all things, Jesus Christ. That's why we all loved him.

I believe that Rich is still writing songs even now. How glorious it will be to hear his collaborations with King David and Fanny Crosby and Keith Green when we arrive home!

To you, his mother, I want to thank you for your part in his life. Thank you for teaching him and loving him and raising him the way he should go. I know you will share in his reward in heaven. You are a very special sister in the Lord and I look forward to

meeting you someday. I pray that God takes even this, what Satan meant for evil, to draw you ever closer to our beautiful Savior. God bless you!!!!

Betty Miller

Just wanted to add my thoughts to those remembering the ministry of a truly unique and special man. I am the same age as Rich and I have enjoyed his music for the past 10 years or so. I have been deeply moved and touched by Rich's music on many occasions. He spoke to me as no one else in contemporary Christian music has ever been able to do. I never had the pleasure of meeting Rich but did get to see him in concert in Seattle about 3 years ago and my family and I enjoyed it immensely. I'm sure that he's in a better place but I also know that this world was a better place with him in it.

In His Grip,
Scott Schleiffers

In spite of the fact that most everything that could be said already has been by others, I feel compelled to add my thoughts on Rich.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15: 55-57 NIV)

Like so many others, I too was eagerly awaiting the day I could hear Rich sing in person. His 1995 tour had a date two hours away, but my wife had just given birth to our third child and we couldn't make it. I guess I'll just have to wait a little bit

longer. That's fine. I'm sure the acoustics will be much better.

I too felt the connection that so many others felt with his music. The time that it spoke to me most clearly was during a two year stretch during which my wife and I lost my mother, her grandfather, and our firstborn son. While I had lots of questions at the time, I never questioned God or his love. Rich's music helped keep me focused. "If I stand" and "Bound to come some trouble" are etched in my brain, and I'm the richer for it. Now I have one more reason to weep as a man longing for my home. I understand Rich enjoyed basketball. Maybe he can teach my little guy how to dribble and shoot. I expect some pretty good one-on-one match ups by the time I arrive.

Some feel Rich's music was under-appreciated. I have no such feeling. Elijah felt under-appreciated, too, but I'm sure the 7,000 faithful would have disagreed, as did the Lord, and He's the only one that matters anyway. It's obvious that countless lives were (and will be) touched and the impact of that is immeasurable. Rich was a faithful servant whom God used in a marvelous way. My prayer now is that God will raise up an Elisha to follow in Elijah's steps. No one will ever have Rich's unique talents, but I'm confident God will inspire other gifted songwriters and singers to touch our hearts and souls. In the meantime, through God's gift of technology, Rich continues to sing, to inspire, to challenge, and to uplift.

To Rich's family, I pray that our God lifts you up in His loving arms during this trial. Rejoice that the words spoken to Martha are spoken also to you:

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:23-26a NIV)

Yours in Christ,

David P. Hochmuth
Rohnert Park, CA

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Thursday, October 2, 1997
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Shocked but not shaken are the words I will use to describe my feelings. Yes I am deeply saddened but ever thankful that God chose to put me on the earth the same time as the earth was blessed with the presence of Rich. He was truly anointed and now he sings his praise to the Lord in Heaven. I am sure Rich was truly humbled to hear "Well done good and faithful servant." to which he probably replied " My pleasure Lord." He was a servant and lived as God lead regardless of the cost. We all have so much to learn from him. Thank you Lord for Rich and thank you Rich for sharing the Lord and encouraging believers.

TO

hi i'm a 40 year old man from canada. i've recently been through a very rough time - worst of my life actually - and i just wanted rich's family to know that his music, particularly creed, got me through some tough days. i was doing the all night show at a radio station the night keith green died. i remember seeing the bulletin on the wire. while at a party this week i heard about rich's passing, and i couldn't help but think of the similarities. two talented evangelists whisked away by what we see as tragedy. hard to understand. actually can't understand. but we have faith that God allows things like losing keith and rich...to somehow work for His will. Many prayers are being said for you.

steve
london, ontario, canada.

thank you lord for the wonderful person in rich mullins. you truly are an awesome god. we don't understand but we trust completely your will. as a listen to the music of rich on the radio, i know his ministry will continue and that must make him smile in heaven. thank you jesus.

susan osterhout

I saw Rich in Grand Rapids, MI last spring: front row. I loved to see this man perform. He is so honestly humble, and you can tell just by watching him. I loved to hear his insight on many of the problems that are plaguing America now. He was such a remarkable men, what an amazing loss to our generation.

Heather Rundell

I had the opportunity of meeting Rich at the airport in Indianapolis a couple of years ago when I was on a business trip. It was just a *chance* meeting where he and I got to talk for awhile. I came away from that meeting filled with a sense of respect and awe for that man. He was extremely humble, caring, and one of the friendliest people I have ever met. I would describe him as the MOST unpretentious person I have ever met. I think Rich had a lot in common with Jesus. When I think of Christlike people, Rich is one of the first people I think of.

Just to show the kind of person Rich was I'll relate a story. Reed Arvin, his producer, told us this story at a workshop in Chicago last year. Reed was chatting with Rich at a recording session. Rich had one of his royalty sheets with him. It was quite long, with a list of royalty fees amounting to quite a bit of money. Reed asked Rich how much it was worth. Rich answered *quite a lot!* They continued to talk (they are very good friends) and Reed asked Rich how much money he made per year. The answer

staggered Reed who has been a long term friend and business associate. By his own request, Rich made the same salary as the average American worker. Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25,000 dollars per year!!! All of the rest of Rich's earnings went to a charitable trust which is administered by his church. The money is used to fund many worthwhile organizations.

It seems to me that Rich *put his money where his mouth was* (so to speak). I'm going to miss him. There will be a void in Christianity--not only because of his gift as a songwriter and artist, but more because of the person he was.

Tony Zubrowski
Plainfield, IN

I've struggled so hard with Rich's passing: Why is it a "tragedy?" Why are we so sad, when a cherished brother or sister goes home?? This should be what we all look forward to! I'm so sorry for our loss, but so incredibly happy for Rich: he knew where he was headed all along, and has left us with a precious glimpse of our home. Thank you Rich! We'll be home soon.

In the sadness of Rich's death, I have written a poem.. here goes..

His music touched our hearts, and our minds...
In Rich and his lyrics, a friend we shall find.
Lord you hear our cry, of this loss of a friend we confide..
We know Rich is in a better place..
kneeling below your throne in God's loving grace.
Our memories will forever hold,
a story of a man,
his love for God,
and music of all stories told.
We bow our heads in loving prayer,
that one day we'll see him again,

with God and his angels there.

Jennifer Slaton

I've never herd Rich sing in person and many times I heard his music never knowing it was him. Even before his death his songs brought tears to my eyes with their power, conviction, and praise. God truly blessed us all with Rich and he will be missed- but his ministry will live on.

Randee Petersen

I cannot comprehend your pain, but I pray that the God of Peace, through His Comforter, would ease your spirits and hearts and begin quickly the long journey back to joy. I want you to know that in life Rich Mullins ministered to my spirit more times than I can bear to recall; in his death he serves as God's agent of disclosure, telling me that my devotion has been anemic, my sacrifice laughable, and my obedience pathetic. And so I must change, and by the abounding grace of God, I will. I praise God that even in death, this man calls me to the feet of my most excellent Savior. I can't wait to meet them both face to face.

Angela Smith
London, Arkansas

I first heard his music on a friend's CD player when we had just gotten back from a mission trip to a Cherokee reservation in North Carolina. Another friend had committed her life to Christ and been baptized on that trip, and for weeks I heard his music running through my head, and it was all wrapped up with the joy of my friend's salvation and the beauty of the North Carolina stars and the smell of the mountains..."Sometimes I think of Abraham,

how one star he saw had been lit for me. He was a stranger in this land, and I am that no less than he..."

I have seen him in concert numerous times, but the most meaningful was the night before I left on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. We missed him in Atlanta, so we drove two hours one-way to Macon to hear him...there was flooding in southern Georgia, and we drove through the rain and storm to a concert that he gave as a benefit for flood victims. The next day I flew to Orlando to meet the rest of my Global Projects team, but my flight was the first there, so I had several hours alone to wonder what on earth I was doing. I wandered singing to myself: "If I stand, let me stand on the promise that You will pull me through. And if I can't let me fall on the grace that first brought me to You. And if I sing, let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs...and if I weep, let it be as a man who is longing for his home."

This summer God has shown me more than ever how true it is that our only home is in heaven. Rich knew that all along. Knowing that he is there now makes me long even more for home...

Thanks and love and prayers to all who knew him and loved him. I hope to meet his family someday.

Sandy

this man truly left his mark on this world. we will sing the songs the lord gave rich for many years to come. may God comfort you like only he knows how. my prayers with you.

-aaron

Rich will be sorely missed by the Christian community. He was one of the most inspirational artists that we have. I have enjoyed singing his songs in our evening worship services...our minister, his wife, my husband & myself all enjoy leading others in singing and playing his works.

My deepest sympathies go out to Rich's family at their loss. We are all praying for you, but at the same time we rejoice that our brother has been called home. Our prayers also are going to Mitch McVicker for a steadily recovery. He has rough road ahead, but God willing he will recover completely very soon.

Yours in Christ
Bonnie McCurdy

I echo the thousands in saying that Rich music, testimony and life inspired me to forsake the things that don't matter and chase after the things that do. He was a rare jewel in the CCM industry that cannot be replaced. It is so hard to find an artist who is not caught up in the mindset, competition, and idol worship so prevalent here in Nashville. Rich seemed so free from the materialism and pressure that comes with being a successful recording artist, and I respected him for that. For one who works in the CCM industry, it is rare to find one who gave so fully of himself to others. He cared about the things that really matter and I will be forever changed from knowing him.

Melissa Banek

It has really been upsetting for me, even though I know that he is where he has always longed to be. He's home. A friend and I drove from Albuquerque to attend his memorial service in Wichita. I thought it so moving and touching to hear from those who loved him and whom he loved.

God's blessings,
Jacqueline Vigil

Never before have I heard a musician so passionate and sold out on God. He was an excellent example of how a relationship with God could become so personal. His songs bring God to life. God is not just someone watching us live our lives, he is someone who wants to have a personal, intimate relationship with us. Rich now has everything he has longed for. We will miss him, but I'm so happy that he is with God and perfectly complete.

Joseph Gutel

We have grown to love Rich and his music as a family. There have been many times when we have taken trips, either short drives in the country, or longer drives for vacation, when we have listened to Rich's music while we were riding; it has almost become a family tradition, rides while listening to Rich Mullins. I would like to include the following poem which I wrote just after Rich's death.

Gone, suddenly, in a twinkling of an eye; before we ever knew it, he was looking back on the stars, and looking forward to his Lord and Savior.

And now, his earthly voice is stilled, and we can no longer hear.

But...

his voice is not stilled in Heaven, where he sings for his Heavenly King.

And his voice is not stilled on earth, where tapes and CDs still play, where those at his college put on his plays, where a thousand churches sing "Awesome God"

But Rich, we will miss you.

Thank you.

Jim Bush,

Houston, TX.

I only met Rich one time. I believe it was in 1990, and Rich's tour brought him through Lynchburg. For reasons I don't remember, a church in VA had canceled his concert. Knowing they would be in the Lynchburg area for the evening, their manager called a local christian radio station to see if they might know of someplace they could minister while in the area. Because we have a daily program on the station, the station manager called me to see if we would be interested in having Rich do a last minute concert at our church. He new our small church didn't even have it's own facility, but thought we might know another church that would partner with us, which we did. We were not sure, however, that Rich and his band would want to perform for such a small group.

Well, they were, for no more than dinner and a love offering, and it was an evening we will long remember! Both churches are small, and being the last minute, there were only about 50 people in attendance. Rich invited everyone to sit up real close - even among the band, as they played and lead us in worship with piano, guitars, and of course, the hammer dulcimer. He let the kids look the dulcimer over real good and showed them how to play it. He shared his vision of ministering on an indian reservation. They ministered for a couple hours, and we finished by singing "Awesome God". Afterwards, Rich and the band hung around talking to everyone, in no hurry to rush off.

We were so impressed by Rich's humility and touchableness. His faith in and love for Jesus was so obvious. After just a few hours he talked to us as if we were old friends. It's no wonder we feel the loss so deeply for someone we only met once. We thank God for the music he left behind, to which we will often listen and remember.....

Pastor Ken
Parrish Victory Christian Fellowship
Lynchburg, VA

As a lyricist, God has shown me many things. One is that if you are the vessel, then the vessel can't get any glory. (We're like FedExing the message from God to people) If God is worthy to be praised, do you make your praise worthy of God? Is it one hundred percent praise w/out pride? When Rich died, God was definitely working in my heart. Why father? Why now? I never had an opportunity to let him know how much of an inspiration he was to me. Then being envious that he got to go home first. (Selfishness on my part, lol) The message(of God) remains, don't store up treasures on earth where moths and robbers can get to them. Make your treasures in heaven. Eternal. He was just the vessel pointing us to the father. What was his inspiration needs to be ours. The love of God. Thank you Jesus for ever loving us and giving us the knowledge that you and you alone are our all in all. May God's peace be on all those who know and love him.

Drew

I was blessed with the opportunity to meet Rich in person at Cornerstone this past summer -- I put a big sign up at our campsite that said "Rich Mullins Stop Here So We Can Honor The World's Finest Musician" (I realize that Rich was a very humble person, and I hope it didn't embarrass him -- I think he kinda liked it). :) Anyway, this sign was much to the embarrassment of most of my fellow campers and some passers-by who read it and said "RICH MULLINS?" (they were the ones who never "got" it). But no one laughed when I walked into our campsite a few hours later with Rich, who graciously came and played "Charlie" on my guitar and sang it for me. Instead they just stood there with their mouths hanging open, offering to take pictures. He didn't see the sign at first, but my husband ran into him walking down the road and told him about it, so he followed us back to our tent and chatted for a few minutes, making us feel like he didn't have anything else he'd rather be doing than hanging out with us. I am thankful to have had that experience, yet like many of you who have never met Rich, I have felt connected to him for years through his

music, and long before I met him, I considered him a dear friend. In fact, I would go so far as to say that other than my husband who is truly Christlike to me, Rich has impacted my life more than any other Christian ever has.

For years I have been a "cheerleader" for Rich's music, trying to convince my friends and family that this was no ordinary artist. My husband didn't even really appreciate his music in all its fullness until he saw him in concert one year (what an experience his concerts were!!!), it was then that he really began to listen to Rich's music. I think that's why a lot of people never "got" it, because they weren't really listening. Let's face it, Rich's songs would never have been placed in the "easy listening" category. They were soul-searching, challenging, profound and comforting all at the same time. You couldn't listen to his songs and remain stuck in your doubts and complacency. They literally moved you, and always in the direction of a God who loves the hell out of us. I think his music and lyrics came straight from the heart of God, because he was a man after God's own heart. Rich has always told us that his songs were not inspired, that the scriptures were inspired; his songs were "provoked". Yet God has used Rich's music to inspire our own hearts when even the holy scriptures seemed to lay dormant within us. One of my favorite Rich quotes is: "I can understand why people would have doubts about the Bible. It's a weird, strange, goofy book" Yet Rich loved the Word of God...not because he understood it all, but because within its pages he found himself...he sure made it easy to be human and still love ourselves, knowing that if Rich Mullins could openly struggle with the same things that ensnare the rest of us, and still write songs like "The Love Of God" and "Both Feet On The Ground", then maybe the rest of us ragamuffins aren't doing so bad after all. I think that Rich shared that truth with us more than any other...it's not that we are so bad, it's that God is so good.

I first stumbled on to Rich's music almost seven years ago. My husband and I had just become Christians and we had been given a gift certificate for a secular music store. Our previous choice of music had been groups such as Pink Floyd, Styx, and The Doors,

so we had no idea what kind of Christian music was out there, or if we would even like any of it. My husband just happened to hear Boy Like Me/Man Like You on a Christian radio station, and thought it was kind of unique, so he went out and bought World As Best As I Can Remember It Vol 1, and something by Micheal W. Smith, the only Christian artist we had ever heard of. (Don't know what ever happened to that tape). As I spent that evening alone with God, I must have listened to World As Best... about eight times in a row!!! I thought Boy Like Me/Man Like You was good, but I was totally captivated by songs like The River, Jacob And 2 Women, Calling Out Your Name, The Howling, I See You... Never before, even in the secular arena had I heard music so brilliantly crafted, lyrics that were so simple yet carried such meaning. Until I heard all those beautiful lyrics, there had been no words to do justice for the depth of love I felt in my heart for my newly found Savior. It was like Rich was singing what I felt my heart had been full of, but could never find words to express. I proceeded to buy everything that Rich had ever done, memorizing every note and lyric, always looking forward to his next release or next concert...Can you imagine what his next concert will be like? -- As we all join him in resounding praise to an audience of One while Rich is pounding out angelic melodies on a hammered dulcimer? WOW!!! Our God is truly Awesome--and while we can only grasp just a small portion of that in our limited human thinking, Rich now sees Him in all His splendor, unfiltered and pure and holy...

I am finally going to get to one of the main purposes of this letter. :) My last letter to Rich was 7 pages long--wonder if he ever got through the whole thing? So if you are about to quit reading, at least read this letter to Rich:

Dear Rich, Here we all sit, overcome with emotions we didn't really know were there, while you too are overcome--with the glory and majesty and awesomeness of your "One Thing". We say thank you, yet to us those words don't even begin to express the impact you have left upon our lives. Over the last decade, you have carried us through God's reckless, raging, furious love; you've shown us the color green more vivid and beautiful than we have ever seen it. We have been filled with the wonder of God's world

as we visited Johnson's creek with you, we have heard the prairies calling out His name. We've sat in a temple of silence and stars, crying out the name of the One who loves us, and watched God put wings upon our flightless hearts. We've sat back and watched you wrestle with our God, asking Him the questions that we were afraid to, and then found our answers in your songs. We've loved and worshipped Him through your musical expression--you had the ability to say what our hearts were full of...the stuff we really felt, but could never put into words of our own. Yet your words became our own. Our praise was made beautiful with your lyrics; they were a part of us all. We'll carry on. We'll carry your songs for you the way they have carried us. And we'll practice what you've always reminded us to do. We'll love God and we'll love each other. And we'll become like little children; we'll keep on growing young.

We love you...thank you for making our lives Richer.

"Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:23

--"If we can reach beyond the wisdom of this age, into that foolishness of God, that foolishness will save those who believe--although their foolish hearts may break, they will find peace...and I'll meet you in that place where mercy leads..."

"Be God's"

Jennifer Hall --

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Friday, October 3, 1997
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Isn't it great to know that he is in heaven with the Lord composing the "new song" we will soon sing?
katie

He is home.... although he will be greatly missed,as a gifted artist,and one who touched many people through his music. I am 16 now,but I remember listening and singing along to "awesome God" when I was about 7 years old. Ever since I have been listening and keeping the words near to my heart. I pray for his family, for comfort and understanding. He is happier now than any of us could every be on this earth... this is not our home.

Thank you for nurturing Rich as a baby and as a young man. Your influence , God blessed. What Joy for a mom to have been with your son while he was active in God's ministry and changing lives for His kingdom! It's every christian mother's prayer for our children. We, my two children and I began listening to Rich's music soon after we dedicated our lives to Jesus at a Calvary Chapel in San Diego. His message was so clear and the melody so captivating to my heart that god's word and love held us in His Love. May God bless you and comfort you during this sad time and may He give you peace with your son's memories.

Sincerely,
Cristina

I am so sorry. May God give you the strength to endure the separation from your friend, and the wisdom to understand why he is gone. I rejoice with you knowing someday we will all be with our wonderful Lord, and share in Rich's joy. God's blessings on you as you go through this very difficult time.

In Him, forever.
Barb Neill

To Rich Mullins Family & Friends,

I have been a fan of Rich's music for some time. What impressed me most about his music was that he lived out the words he sang about. His music has and continues to inspire me and to encourage me to draw close to my Heavenly Father and to serve Him with all of my heart. I am comforted by thoughts of Rich singing "Awesome God" to the Creator Himself but know that those of us here on earth have suffered a great loss. May God comfort you during this time. My prayers are with you.

With Love,
Lori Towns
Waltham, MA

Our God is an Awesome God...Rich Mullins is now finding out how true this is.

Kev & Jav Koornneef

I just wanted to share with you the impact Rich Mullins music has had on my life. I am a cancer patient. Back towards the end of 1995 I was undergoing chemotherapy treatments. I used Rich's music to help me handle the treatments. His songs are all so uplifting and sweet. They really helped me focus on God's healing, and kept me focused on getting well. I have a couple favorite songs that, when stressed, I listen to that really help me focus on God, and what's really important in life. Rich is up in with Jesus now, and I'm sure he is making wonderful music! God bless you!

kim Sheldon

I am very sorry for your great loss. It was a very sad day when one great man died and went to heaven. I hope that you have comfort in knowing that Rich is in a far greater place where I

know that he must be happy. He is in heaven with the Father. I know that the heavens must be enjoying his music. I can only imagine that Rich must be happy there in heaven.

I did not know Rich myself. In fact I have never been to a concert or met him. I have heard a lot about him from friends (I worked a christian bookstore) and his music. The first song that I ever knew and by the way it is still my favorite is "Awesome God". The song that means the most to me is "Hold Me Jesus." The very first time I heard it - I cried my eyes out. I was going through a very rough time. At the time I felt as if I was alone in this world and that it wasn't worth living. I have come to know that Jesus will always be here and that song always gives me comfort during the hard times. One of my favorite cds to play is his with all of his greatest hits.

I was in shock when I heard the news, but my immediate response was that I think Rich is happier now. He is with the Lord. I don't mean any disrespect to you. I am sure that he loved his family, but his whole life was for the Lord. Now he is with the Lord. I can only imagine a great smile on his face.

Rochelle Jacobson

One week after his passing our Youth Group from church held a small memorial service for Rich. Through his music, he has touched a lot of lives at our church, and we wanted to honor him in some small way... We started out by singing some of his songs, then watched a short video that Praise TV had put together in honor of Rich. After that, we opened it up for sharing. Several people said things about how Rich had touched their lives through his music. I have known Rich's music since he recorded Awesome God way back in 1988 (Winds of Heaven... was, in fact, the very first tape I ever bought) and since that time I have grown to know and respect him more and more. I was the only one in the Youth Group that had ever been to one of Rich's concerts, and that was definitely a wonderful experience. Rich loved his Lord and knew His grace very well. Overall, I think what I have always admired

the most about Rich is that he was human. He wasn't a big show-off on stage, but he stepped aside and let God work through him. He wasn't high and mighty about his spiritual life, but he admitted freely to being a sinner and a ragamuffin just like me. He even wrote back when I asked him how to play one of his hammered dulcimer songs (I also play the dulcimer).

This honesty that Rich had to all around him in his life is also present in his music, and to a great extent, I think that Rich's music WAS rich. A close friend of mine, during the sharing time that Friday night, said that she "could sit there all night and talk about what Rich and his music meant to her, but if you really want to know Rich, just listen to his music..." With songs like Hold Me Jesus, If I Stand, Elijah, Be With You, Awesome God, Sometimes By Step, how can one NOT know Rich Mullins after listening to them. Rich poured his whole heart out in his music and in his lyrics, and God blessed that heart and blessed a lot of people through that music.

Anyway, I probably haven't said ANYTHING that hasn't been said a million times before, but sometimes there is comfort in repetition and redundancy... Rich is not really gone as long as we remember him, and he will live on through his music for a long number of years to come. Rich is now in the arms of his Father. He has crossed the Jordan and has looked back on the stars on his way to be with Jesus. He was ready to go home, and now he is.

I guess I just want to say now, thank you God for loving us all enough to give us Jesus and Your grace. You are truly an Awesome God. Thank you for working through all of us to carry out Your purpose here on earth. We look forward to the day when we can come and "Be With You..."

Forrest T. Cramer

Although I'm only 14, Rich Mullin's music has inspired. I was deeply saddened to hear the news. I love to listen to his music.

When the local radio station here in St. Louis did a tribute to him the Monday after his death, I wanted to cry. That morning, I walked to my bus stop singing "Awesome God." As it says in Romans 8:28, "All things will work together for good to those who love him." At the time, we may not know what it is, but isn't it great to know that all of us who believe will see him again, one day in heaven? I thing so.

Allison Egley
St. Peters, MO

We'll deeply miss Rich's physical presence on this earth, but are consoled knowing that he's with the Lord. And he left a legacy on the earth with his music that's such a blessing to all of us.

Jay

As I sit here trying to think of how to console someone I don't even know who just lost such a wonderful person I have drawn a blank. All I can think of to say is our God is an Awesome God. No matter what happens in our lives, although it sometimes feels out of control, God is in complete control. Please lean on Him for your support.

Rich was an incredible artist who's message touched so many lives... including my wife's and mine. All glory is the Lords!!!!

In Him,
Scott and Emily Glisson
Dallas TX

And Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to

prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also may be where I am. You know the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Rich knew.

If one would listen carefully, you can hear the angels' chorus singing, "Our God is an Awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above with wisdom, power and love. Our God is an Awesome God!!"

And if one could see clearly enough, you can see Rich. He is waving his arms in front of the angels, conducting them. He is crying with joy, for he is doing that which he was created to do. God is smiling.

He says, "Welcome home, Rich. Well done."

Gloria Patenaude

I was very saddened to be listening to 94.1 FM KLTY out of Dallas, TX on September 19, and to hear John Rivers' soft, deep voice give that heart-aching news about Rich Mullins. He was a great songwriter, and a very wonderful man, from what I have read about him. I know that Jesus will comfort his family and give them strength. He is Home now, along with everyone else's family members that have gone before them. They are waiting, standing by the Crystal Throne, with the King of Kings, for us to one day join them. I can't wait...

--Christy Valkman
Ft. Worth, TEXAS

During August this year, I heard what was most definitely the best concert I've ever attended. We came close to not going as it was a hectic week and a Thursday night, now with all that happened, I'm so thankful we did. I got to meet Rich briefly in the hall and I remarked how much of what he said between songs echoed Scott Hahn. He was excited I had heard of Mr. Hahn. I asked him to autograph my ticket (old high school habit...) and on it he wrote "Be God's....Rich" What great advice!! I have been trying...there's a long way to go! Mitch was wonderful at the concert. I pray that we are able again to someday hear his talent. One thing Rich said that will stick with me, is that all of this music is good, but it can't always be the "feel good" stuff that turns you on. Church isn't always about chills, that's not the important thing. How true! There's a lot of work and faith that goes in there, too. Praise God for letting us know people like Rich, that can understand and teach others what they know. These songs will be around forever!

Michelle

Sometimes it's hard to understand God and what His perfect plan is. Rich had sooo much to give in bringing people to a greater understanding of the perfect love of Christ. Rich's music impacted me so greatly. I listen mostly to music that uplifts and praises God. I don't like hidden messages. With Rich's music there was no doubt what he was singing about and who he was giving the glory to.

When I heard of his death I was deeply grieved at the loss of such a talented man who reached so many. But I was also homesick thinking of him in the presence of the very one that he worshipped. The same one that I also worship. I'm sure Rich heard the words "well done" when he went home. Though the world

will greatly miss him, I'm sure Jesus is glad to have him home with him. One day we will all be in glory with him.

God Bless you,
Angela Schneider

I would like to acknowledge God and His great ministry done through Rich Mullins. I must say that this man has inspired me and through his music has drawn me closer to God. I thank God for his life and his ministry. And now, I will one day meet him with Our Heavenly Father. To the Mullins family, though he is no longer here, we will one day be together.

Love in Christ,
Alvin

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Saturday, October 4, 1997

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For many years Rich has been my favorite Christian artist, not only for his beautiful music and incredible lyrics, but also for the way he so clearly revealed Jesus Christ in his life. To hear him talk or to read his writings always showed a purity of heart and faith. He was certainly one of my heroes of the faith, and so this is a great loss. I picture him now standing before the throne of Heaven and God Himself singing Our God is an Awesome God. What a joy for him, to finally be in the place where he so clearly longed to be! Rich will certainly be remembered and missed and I believe his music will continue to touch and encourage all who hear it. My prayers go out to his family and friends.

Linda Baar

Hi -

I saw Rich Mullins in concert at my church earlier this year. He was an amazing man who showed a deep love for God. His song "Hold Me Jesus" is so touching - I wasn't even a Christian (I am now) when I saw him in concert, but that song brought tears to my eyes then and still does. I was wondering how his drummer is - I can't find any updates on his condition and I was concerned. Please let me know if you ever hear anything. Thanks.

EAJ

hello, it is saturday oct. 4th... as a member of rich mullins' family i have tried to make sense of the tragedy taking rich and for the first time since his passing i am listening to one of his cd's and with his singing to me "step by step" while reading the letters of love, faith and kindness, and suddenly he felt close by thru words and melody and "everywhere i go i see you" oh my, a huge task it is. i would like to tell you that his mother is finding comfort and solace also in the thousands of messages and no doubt thru the many prayers asking for strength and understanding. my son was a roadie for rich on the last two tours, and is also a senior at friends university, matt. was one of the first to be told of the accident, sometimes i think his heart is broken beyond hope but i know rich is up there saying, "come on you can make it!" in fact, matt reminded us of how enthusiastic rich always was at finding a great book or terrific movie and would always say, "hey you just have to see this!" matt decided that rich is standing at heaven's door saying "oh my gosh, you just have to see this!" in closing please pass my appreciation along to all of those that took time to write, i did go back to the cemetery last thurs, but it was only an empty tomb covered w/withered bouquets, our brother HAS seen jordan. god

bless you all,
glenna

I first heard Rich's music when we sang "Awesome God" regularly at a prayer meeting. In the five years since, I have learned more of his music and his message found others who appreciated him and others to share him with. We have all been struck by his sense of humor, his compassion for the struggles of others and his unashamed devotion to Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that while we can, we continue to share the Good News with the help of the wonderful legacy that Rich Mullins has left. He used his talents well for us and for God. If I may pass my condolences to his family, I would be grateful.

Christ's Peace,
Jakob

I know there are no words that can truly be expressed that helps the lost, other than Rich Mullins is finally with his heavenly Father who he sang for and about so beautifully. He will be missed A LOT for I really enjoyed his music. It is just wonderful to listen to the lyrics and music. Rich Mullins I will miss you.

A dedicated Fan in California,
Nick

Dear Rich Mullins Family,

It was a shocking day here in Oklahoma when the news came across. Our prayers are with the family and friends of Rich's Family. I am the BSU (Baptist Student Union) president at Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) located at Tonkawa, Oklahoma. I am going to see what I can do to get donations to send to your Native American fund. Again our prayers are with you and your friends. GOD Bless and help you through this time of need.

Love Your Friend in Christ,
Thomas Bond

I was so shocked the day I heard the sad, sad, news. Rich Mullins was a great songwriter and could always write the best songs. I will never forget the night we forgot to go to his concert. I know he is much better off in heaven than in this world. I know He'll never sing on this earth again but I'm sure he'll sing for Jesus in heaven and I will always carry his picture in my heart.

Rich was so greatly blessed by his talent. I sit here still mourning about him when I know Rich is happy where he is now! I really loved his music. He inspired me greatly. He was a great songwriter and a GREAT Christian. It is so weird to think I loved somebody I didn't know. I pray everyday for his family and friends. Even though I didn't meet him on earth I know I'll meet him in heaven. I will always remember him as one of God's great servants. Rich has blessed me with all his song. And I know Rich was not sad to say goodbye to this world. He is now singing praises to God. Rich really has touched my heart in his ministry. Rich, Thanks for all the wonderful songs you have shared with the world. I thank God he gave you that talent to write. Every time I sing "Our God is an Awesome God" I'll remember you. May God Bless your family, your friends, every person who grew to like and love you, and you! I'll see you one day in Heaven!

God Bless!
Steven Cottle, Jr.

I'm sorry to hear about Rich's death, but so happy to know that he's with the Lord! I have been blessed by his music, especially Sing Your Praises to the Lord, the long version. I about fell out of my chair when, on the day of his passing, I discovered he had written that song. Even more surprising was learning that when Amy Grant had recorded it, the studios cut the middle part out.

Praise God that Rich had ears to hear that the Lord wanted it put back in. That section just blesses the socks off me! I feel the awesomeness of God! It also shows me what faithfulness and obedience to God's commandments results in: blessing others. I want to be that kind of Christian. One that hears and obeys. I lift up the family and friends of Rich to the Lord for comfort and strength.

Terry Goyer

I would like to express my sincere sympathy to all of Rich's family and friends. I am still greatly saddened by this tremendous loss- not only to those who were close to Rich, but also to the Christian society as a whole. After I heard of Rich's death, the words of Fanny Crosby's "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" that Rich so beautifully recorded, kept echoing in my head- especially the last verse "...all the way my Savior leads me, oh the fullness of His love; perfect rest in me is promised, in my Father's house above; when my spirit clothed immortal, wings it's flight realms of the day; this my song through endless sages- Jesus lead me all the way. I hope and pray that those clothes to Rich can take comfort in these words and remember that Rich has found his perfect rest.

I also would like to express a huge "Thank you" to Rich's family for "lending" us their son and brother, even if it was only for a short time.

Several years ago, I was attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, Indiana. I had never picked a gun up until I entered the academy, so, as you can imagine, I was having a little difficulty with the shooting aspect of the program. I had a cassette tape of "Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth" which I put into my walkman. I kept repeating the 2 songs "If I Stand" and "Home". With these playing in the background, I had no trouble at all qualifying. This is only one of Rich's many songs that have touched me and helped me through difficult times. It is very

evident that the words of his songs really came from his heart,
and he willingly opened and exposed that heart to all of us.

Thank you again for "lending" us Rich!!!!

In Him,
Susan E. Hileman

Sunday, October 5, 1997

To the Friends, Family, and Fans of Rich,

We've lost a great man in Christ. To me, he was one who would always talk of home. Not in the physical, house sense, but in the heavenly, spiritual sense. In his songs, he longed for the day when he could return to God and see His wonderful face. Rich left behind a legacy that will always be remembered, but he also left behind thousands who were saved by his music, waiting to see him when they also reach home. To his family and friends, my condolence and a reminder of God's grace and peace. To his fans, never forget what he stood for and who he longed to be with.

Devoted Fan in Tears,
Jason Jacob

I can say without reservation that Rich Mullins was, and remains, the finest Christian music artist the modern Church has known. Perhaps more significantly, he was arguably the most sincere minister of the Gospel to be found in CCM. We have lost our finest and best. Praise be to God for the assurance that we know is Rich's - his life was Christ, and his death is now for him immeasurable gain!

The news of his death struck my wife and I very deeply. Our

emotions ran deep that following week, but we found it difficult to express to anyone near us the loss we felt at the death of a man we had never met. And so I appreciate the opportunity you have provided for me to express it here.

Rich's music always had the uncanny ability to cut through the misprioritization of my life and bring me back to the simple truth of the infinite glory and splendor of our God, of His perfect holiness and His unlimited unmerited favor. I found myself afterwards always more aware of the true nature of things, of what is truly important in this life. If I paid close attention to the songs, it was a rare occasion that I could make it through any album without shedding tears at the thought of the greatness of our God or the greatness of His love towards us. Rich presented it with greater sensitivity than any other musician I have come across, and I'm grateful that he was unafraid to be so transparent. Let's pray that those remaining in Christian music will learn from Rich's leading and more boldly glorify our Father in their music. Every day is an opportunity to reach a life with the love of Christ - may we all be driven with compassion to use them more faithfully.

Perhaps the most difficult part of this loss is that I have found myself consciously avoiding Rich's music. I guess I'm afraid to reopen the wound. Deep down, there's a part of me that is afraid that I'll never be able to enjoy his music the way I used to. But I know that God would have me approach it otherwise. I need to fully realize that Rich's life is not over, but rather that it has begun anew in the presence of God - and in this I need to celebrate. And I also need to feel, more than ever, the tug of the Spirit to follow in the ministry heart that Rich promoted. Ultimately, his death should stir up the call to follow Christ in the hearts of those who appreciated that same call they saw on Rich. The work must continue, and we must take up the slack.

In Christ,
Brian Croyle
Tucson, Arizona

When I heard the news, I was at a concert awaiting Bob Carlisle and Bryan Duncan. My heart was broken. It was so appropriate that I had the chance that evening to mourn and celebrate in the midst of so many others who had come together to praise God with song. I continue to pray for God's healing hand for Mitch. I also look forward to the day when I can hear the new CD "Canticle of the Plains" which features Mitch on lead vocals. Pray for God to bring peace to Mitch's heart as he continues to recover from this tragedy.

Since the moment I heard of the accident I have been trying to think of a way that I could honor Rich. I want to be able to help others remember him the way I remember him. The biggest gift Rich gave to this world was the work he did with Compassion International. I sponsor a child from Zaire. It wasn't until I heard Rich speak of his involvement, that I really understood what it was that I was doing. He made it real to me. Until February 14, 1997 I just gave money to this little kid. I thought I was doing my "job" giving charity. After all, its more than some people give. Then I heard Mitch and Rich sing a song they had written about New Mexico. Then they both spoke with such grace about the people they shared their lives with there. It made me realize that I should be giving more than just my money. I should be giving my heart, soul, mind, money, prayers...

I hope that I will always follow the example Rich Mullins left me. That example was to seek God, follow Him, never cease being amazed by His creation, and continue to share that awe with anyone and everyone who would listen. I thank God for sharing Rich with me and pray that Mitch will continue the work God has begun in him.

Cheryl Davis

Monday, October 6, 1997

I just have one album of Rich Mullins, "Winds of Heaven... Stuff of Earth." I am blessed by the song "Awesome God " that remind me that I am so lucky I live in the hand of The Awesome One. Please, accept my sympathy and I believe all things work together for our good. God be with you in this sorrow time.

Elisa Dean
Indonesia

Here in the UK it's been difficult to get more information and I haven't seen any media coverage here. It has, therefore, been all the more important to feel I am in touch via the internet with other devastated fans. I have been moved to tears reading the touching tributes. Rich's unique and wonderful ministry will never be forgotten, and I thank God to have been privileged to share in it, in but a small way. His work will go on, I'm sure, through his many fans. As well as his family, friends and fans, my heart goes out to Brennan Manning and his wife Rosalyn at this time.

Gill
England

As a "MOM" I want to extend my prayers to Rich's mother, and thank you for the way your son enriched my life & that of my family. I was introduced to Rich's music through my teenage sons (now 20 & 21 years old). I am always grateful for any positive influence and role models in my children's lives, but it didn't take much for me to become captivated by the music myself.

Last year, Rich was in Austin, Texas during Holy Week, and did an outdoor concert on the University of Texas campus. I went by myself (as my sons attend college elsewhere) and sat on the lawn in the midst of all the young people from U.T. It was my first

and only Rich Mullins concert. It was an evening I will not forget. Rich's performance was so focused on praising God and on involving the audience. I was amazed that these students all seemed to know the words to his songs - they sang & harmonized with him - and sometimes Rich would stop singing, and just listen to the music coming from the crowd. He seemed to take such pleasure in their voices - his eyes closed, ears perked, a smile on his face. I felt so privileged to be a part of that evening.

I loved Rich's earthiness, his magic with words and music, and his heart for God. He has impacted my family in a very positive way. Mother to mother - I wanted to offer my condolences & prayers, and thank you for sharing your precious son with so many.

Much love,
Patti

I am a bit delayed in hearing about the death of Rich Mullins, but I just wanted to send my thoughts. His music and ministry have been a great influence in my life. I never met Rich, never got to see him in concert, but his music is what moves me. Everyone takes away what they will from an artist, and I will always remember Rich and his love for God. He will be greatly missed.

My prayers go out to Rich's family and Mitch's family.

Greg Tucker
New Brunswick, Canada

Every time a new Rich Mullins song or album would come out it felt like he was singing my heart to God. His music means more to me than any other contemporary artist because it always seem to be exactly where I was at or coming from in my walk with God.

When my husband was saved, Rich Mullins was the first Christian tape he ever purchased. Even though I never met him or attended

one of his concerts, it feels like I've lost a dear friend.

Gods ways are right and perfect. Rich is in a far better place than we are but he will be missed. I am praying for God's peace for his family and the family of the other man in the car. May we all see God's hand on this tragedy and seek His face that we may be an instrument of his glory as He unfolds his plan.

Shelley Batty
Portland, Oregon

My thoughts lately have been on the death of Rich, such a gifted musician and a brother in Christ. We had taken our church youth group to see Rich in concert twice. Once at a CMA church in Salem, Oregon and once in Portland when he was on his last tour. What an incredible and awesome experience it was. He even let us take a picture of him with one of our teenagers. He really did care about his fans and he has made such an impact on me. The first time I heard "Hold Me Jesus" I sat in my car and cried. It was a different time when I was listening to "Awesome God" and was filled with such a joy. The realization of how awesome God was struck me!! His songs had a way of making you think. He will be greatly missed. But he is home... where he wanted to be. Now Heaven is enjoying him and I'm sure God has him "jammin" with all those other great musicians who have gone on before. He will truly be missed in Salem, Oregon.

Renee Lane

I know that millions have expressed their grief over the death of Rich Mullins and I am just one among many I don't suppose that my praise and admiration towards Rich will be any different than the others, because I cannot ever express adequately the incredible impact Rich had on me. He affected me more than anyone ever could...even though I never met him. How odd it is to know that a

man affected me so greatly, yet I will never be able to give him thanks face to face. All I can do is pray for his family, friends, and fans.

It gives me some solace to know that God must not have been able to wait one more moment without having his beloved Rich by his side, so He took him to Heaven. Honestly, Rich's music has helped me out of countless fatal situations in my Christian walk; he was not ashamed to admit his fears, faults, frustrations, and faith. Aside from undoubtedly being the greatest song writer ever to live, a musical genius, and a precious godly witness to me, if there is one man that I will aim to be like with my young life, it is Rich Mullins.

I pray the words of Rich's song, my favorite song..."peace to you, peace of Christ to you..."

Tiffany Hoyer

We are very saddened by the death of Rich but rejoice in the knowledge that our God takes to Himself His own. While we will miss Rich's presence in this world we are comforted by the legacy of Christian music he and his band leave behind for the souls still in this world to be inspired by and worship through.

May God bless those who were closest to Rich, granting them comfort in His loving arms.

Wailand and Jean Groenendyk and children (Tad, Casey, Will, Tully)
Spring Lake, Michigan

The lyrics of Rich's music went right pass my head and straight into my heart. His music rekindled many candles, and lit many fires for our Lord Jesus Christ. He was truly a remarkable man. He was blessed by God, but not nearly as Blessed as I have been by God's use of him. He will truly be missed. My heart goes out to

you all. Losing someone you love is hard, but isn't wonderful to know he's gone to heaven. He's now getting his chance to "Sing His Praise To The Lord." You will all be in my prayers,

In his wonderful name. Sherry Fore

"Shaking Like a Leaf"

I listened to him sing and wondered how,
It's so rare in this life to hear the song of heaven.
But it was even rarer to feel it so.
Through his songs and more through his compassion,
Hope and truth gave light to the darkened soul (mine).
In him, Jesus had a knight of music,
Defending the fragile mortality of man's soul.
Now that knight has a new song to sing, one of glory and praise
In perfect harmony, awaiting the day of bright reunion.
Though I never met him (yet), he is my brother in blood.
Now waiting for me to join him in our final, everlasting hymn.
And as he said, I'm sure it didn't break his heart to say goodbye.
So I won't cry...I'll just wait to say hello...one day...

And now, as the mountains look especially big,
I'll take comfort in peace's Prince, glory's King.
Asking Him to hold my shaken leaf...

I listened to him sing and wondered how,
It's so rare in this life to hear the song of heaven.
But it was even rarer to feel it so.

-Tom Samuel (10/6/97)

(with my deepest condolences and prayers to the Mullins family.
With all that my friend did for me over the years in his music, I regret that this is all I can give back...but thank you, my friend in Spirit, however belated it is...)

Rich's music has and will forever touch our hearts. He lives on through the gift of the music he shared so generously. I will always be thankful for the work God did through him. As long as there are ears to hear, Rich's songs will continue God's work.

In fond memory,
Judy Couto

I was saddened to hear of Rich's death and still haven't quite gotten over the fact that he is gone. Every time I listen to one of his songs I'm taken back to the time I first heard his music. I was in a Christian book store looking for music I could listen to because my parents really wanted me to listen to Christian music instead of the heavy metal I was listening to at the time. I thought I would go in and look for the rock bands that were Christian. When I walked in I heard this awesome music playing over the page system. It brought tears to my eyes. Was looking around for what tape it was and found Rich's tape: The world as best I remember it vol.. I immediately bought it and ever since was a big fan.

Seeing the messages here, I know that Rich touched more lives than just mine. Rich Mullins was also the first date that my wife and myself went on. I was in the Army and I remember praying once that I would like to go to a concert of his just once. When I started writing my wife I was coming home on leave and wanted to take her out. However she beat me to the punch by getting tickets to the concert. I still have the shirt I bought. Rich will forever be in my heart and his family in my prayers as will mitch and his family.

Sincerely yours,
Samuel Squyres

To his family

My wife and I, and many of our friends, will always remember his gift of music and ability to reach people at his concerts by meeting their needs and identifying with people through his music. We praise God for his ability to reach so many in his short life.

May God bless and comfort you.

Best regards
Todd Laddusaw
London, England

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

My wife and I have had the honor of witnessing Rich minister four times within the last six years. At our first concert in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, he taught us among other things to make it rain. We will miss his gift, but pray that the Lord will use his passing to further his works and goal to bring Him to all people. "And if I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his Home."

William Bower

I first heard Rich 8 years ago on the radio. I had just started listening to Christian music and stopped dead in my tracks when I heard the beauty of that first song. Thereafter I always knew if a new song was one of Rich's because of how it got in my heart. I finally got to meet him a few times after concerts. He was the most humble, Christ-like person I have ever met. We "Romans" love the Saints and Rich impressed me as part St. Francis of Assisi and part St. John the Baptist. The last concert I attended was with some of my friends and most of our children. After the

concert, as the children were all gathered around him, and he was giving them his undivided attention in such a loving and giving way, the Scripture about Jesus came to mind and I wondered if this is how Jesus would have looked to those children's mothers. Right now as I grieve for this beautiful man, I recall a song that reminds me so much of our beloved liturgy, "Peace". "Though we're strangers, still I love you."

JOK

Hi, I was just wanting to write and share this memory of Rich. It was some time ago that this happened. I believe 1989 or thereabouts. The song AWESOME GOD had just been released and Rich was performing in Emporia Kansas, It was at the High School. we were invited to go by our neighbors. It was the first Christian Concert for me and I believe my wife as well. During the concert, which may I add was very entertaining, Rich stopped and asked if there were any volunteers who would like to come up and play piano for him. As quick as I could, I raised my hand, and as quickly as she could, my wife sunk in the seat. As it was not for myself that I was raising my hand, rather for my wife. Low and Behold, he chose me. I told him that it was my wife who played and then through a little coaxing, she went up on stage with him. She played, he sang, and I was so proud. But even beyond that pride was the sense knowing or seeing the Love of Christ coming out in Rich. He was not a special man in the way that some would have guessed him to be. He was like you and I and perhaps even a bit more humble. The bare feet were there, the cups, and better than that, GOD! He led Rich, He guided Rich through life, and then he took Rich home. Enjoy him Lord God, I know that we did!

Kevin Hopkins

The trumpets have sounded, The angels are singing: Rich is Home.
Michael

I never met Rich, or even saw him in concert. Except in his music, I never heard him speak. I've only seen his face on album covers. For all this, Rich Mullins has blessed my life more than I can say. His music has led me and many whom I love into true worship. I know God better because Rich lived. And, because of his recordings, he leads me in worship even today. I look forward to meeting him.

Thomas McKenzie
San Antonio, Texas

there's so much I would like to have told Rich Mullins in person... how his music fostered an environment for true spiritual growth my newly beginning Christian walk years ago... how my wife and I would listen to his music for countless hours on long road trips when a decision needed to be made... his music seemed to be a venue that conveyed God's Word as well as human passions for so many... listening to his songs are like entering into a time of sweet prayer with the Lord... the pleasant use of instruments like the dulcimer, so beautiful it's almost indescribable... how your death has rekindled the spiritual fire in my relationship with Christ by reminding me of the eternal attributes of God and His merciful Grace through Christ... how I pray for Rich's family and friends... I could go on, but somehow without writing it all down, although I'm not sure how it works, I think Rich, while in the presence of other saints worshiping the Lord, perhaps can hear my heart's cry - thank you!

Jacob Brewer

Well, it's too late for me to have the gift of seeing Rich in concert... too late to meet this inspired and incredible Man of God... Yet I can honestly say I feel a personal connection with

Rich Mullins. I first heard "Awesome God" many, many years ago, and not knowing who Rich Mullins was at the time, I thought that "whoever wrote that incredible song should be heard world-wide!" Little did I know... a couple of years later, I heard "Boy Like Me/Man Like You" on KSBJ Radio in Houston while driving home from school. The DJ mentioned the title and artist at the end, and said something about the song "Awesome God". I made the connection, and suddenly became overcome with the power and the depth of Rich's music. "Boy/Man" really touched me, and brought down to earth just how human Christ was... and how Divine He is. I bought that album, and have subsequently bought every single Rich Mullins album I can find. I have never been so 'addicted' to an artist and his Message.

I was greatly dismayed to find out about the loss Sunday morning after the tragic accident. However, I know that Rich is now with the Master -- the Awesome God -- and the Boy/Man/God who he was so much like and was so inspired by. Rich is probably re-arranging the heavenly choirs a little bit and putting his own wonderful chorus and harmonies into the Music that is "falling on our ears". I'll miss you!

Robert Cooper
Bryan, Texas, USA

To the family of Rich Mullins

I just wanted to send a brief note of thanks to the Lord for giving us the time with Rich we had. What an awesome gift to us to hear his songs & be encouraged by them.

Julie Schwartz

Rich has been one of the profoundest influences on my life for the

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past six or seven years. I found in his music so many of the unshaped thoughts that struggled within me for expression. How can I even begin to enumerate the many memories some songs evoke? Long rides in the country with my family, with "The World As Best as I Can Remember It Vol. 1" playing in the tape deck... those precious Sunday afternoons of my girlhood.

My dog and my Walkman in a field at sunset, as I knew afresh that the wind still stirs...

The death of my grandmother and the sublime comfort of "Can I Be with You?"...

Summer heat, laughter, joy, my sister and I seeing the pictures in the sky as we enjoyed the newfound freedom of my driver's license...

Taking the long way home just so we could finish hearing "Somewhere"...

The friends I made simply because we discovered we were both fans... those friends who cried with me when they heard that Rich was gone.

And then there are those moments... those memories that stand out... like the moment on an amusement park ride when I first felt the meaning of "Elijah," and the time when "The River" told me that today was the day I was to begin a longtime dream... a novel which I would dedicate to Rich. It is not finished yet, nor have the memories ended; his legacy lives on and will keep on growing.

I only met him once, and the time was so short... two minutes of a life that was too short to begin with. But "Vivian, Be God's" has not faded from my memory, and the joy of heaven becomes even brighter because I believe that there, at last, time will not bind us or death separate us.

Vivian :o)

Wednesday, October 8. 1997

I was shocked to hear that rich passed away. I want to share as a Malysian, studying, and, working in America, I came to love all his songs. I was in a car accident this previous March, and, I almost died. The next night, before I left for surgery, I asked my friends from my church in Goshen, Indiana, to sing with me "Step By Step", and, "The Ancient of Days." "Step By Step" is still favorite song because that helped me pull through the dark days after the surgery, and, I pray that God will help all of us as we remember the loss of a brother, and, a friend who came to know Rich through his songs of "Our God is an Awesome God", "Step By Step", "Hold Me Jesus", etc. My deepest condolence to the family members, friends, relatives, and, Compassion International. Goodbyes are not easy, but, we will see Rich singing in heaven for god's glory. I have to share this news to my friends in Malaysia, and, I know they will be at loss too. I will miss Rich, but, will not forget him because I can replay his songs in my music selection. We will never forget Rich of his love to an awesome God. Please remember that all those who came to know Rich through his music throughout the world will be praying for God to place His comforting arms around you.

Shalom...

Edmund

i cannot help but think that rich is in heaven right now, nudging the person next to him saying, "i wrote this song."

i met rich twice and i would not change those chance meetings, those few minutes for anything.

j hohn

Thanks for the moving music Rich! You can now sing your praises to the lord!

Rob

My prayers are still with you, Mitch, and the entire Mullins family. This great loss is so mind boggling that it is difficult to fathom. Just the thought of being called by the one whom Rich was singing of, is something that has had a new meaning and new inspiration to his music, when my family listens to this great music. This world has lost someone great, but Rich is even in a greater place.

Yours in CHRIST.

Joe

***** tspaget

To Rich's Mother & Family,

I just wanted to take a moment to tell you that like so many others I was shocked to hear of Rich's sudden departure from this world. None of us have any idea why God would choose to take him now but we know that God's plan for Rich's life and his departure is indeed the best plan for Rich. I think of all the people that Rich cared about, the poor, the sick and the down trodden. I think of all the people in this world suffering through slow and agonizing deaths and I am convinced that the Lord must love Rich very much to have shown him such mercy.

I hope that when I get to heaven, good Lord willing, that I will get a chance to thank Rich for his ministry. I can not tell you

how many times that God used one of his songs to speak to me and lift my heart and give me hope. I am grateful that Rich choose to use the gifts God gave him to minister to others and bring glory to Christ name. I see so many others choosing to use their gifts for personal gain and I realize the sacrifices Rich choose to make. Not only was his ministry a blessing but his life an example of a man who sought to serve God rather than himself.

I pray our Comforter, The Holy Spirit, will touch you, lift you and help you through this time as only he can.

Your Sister In Christ
Pam Foster

"Shaking Like a Leaf"

I listened to him sing and wondered how,
It's so rare in this life to hear the song of heaven.
But it was even rarer to feel it so.
Through his songs and more through his compassion,
Hope and truth gave light to the darkened soul (mine).
In him, Jesus had a knight of music,
Defending the fragile mortality of man's soul.
Now that knight has a new song to sing, one of glory and praise
In perfect harmony, awaiting the day of bright reunion.
Though I never met him (yet), he is my brother in blood.
Now waiting for me to join him in our final, everlasting hymn.
And as he said, I'm sure it didn't break his heart to say goodbye.
So I won't cry... I'll just wait to say hello... one day...

And now, as the mountains look especially big,
I'll take comfort in peace's Prince, glory's King.
Asking Him to hold my shaken leaf...

-Tom Samuel (10/6/97)

(with my deepest condolences and prayers to the Mullins family.
With all that my friend did for me over the years in his music, I

regret that this is all I can give back... but thank you, my friend in Spirit, however belated it is...)

I was very sad upon hearing about Rich's death. I loved his music and I will greatly miss hearing him. Wow!! I bet he is making even more wonderful music now with God. I pray for his family and friends.

God Bless!!

Megin Link

Please let me express my deep sense of loss at the loss of Rich Mullins. At every significant turning point of my life his music touched my heart, and summarized my thoughts, and heart cries. From my call to ministry (Sometimes by Step), my wedding (Hold Me Jesus - processional, Creed - recessional), a huge move to the prairies in a giant leap of faith (Calling out your name), to my own fear of death (Elijah) not to mention numerous points in between.

My husband and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary at a Rich Mullins concert that touched my heart, washed my soul and brought me face to face with God. I will always remember that God was the one on stage, Rich was just our facilitator.

Please express my condolences to the Mullins family and also to Beaker, and his family. The way Rich talked about his friendship with Beaker, I know they must be feeling this loss most powerfully! My prayers are with him, and with the Mullins family.

Thanks

Coralie Cowan

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

To the Family of Rich Mullins:

I was late in hearing about the loss of Rich, but since I found out last Saturday I have been in between a state of thankfulness for what his music and humility meant to me and sorrow for the loss. Three experiences come to mind that I wanted to let you know about.

One is an experience with nature that I have heard others talk about while listening to Rich's music. I was at home in Tucson one Christmas during college and was listening to the opening notes of "Calling Out Your Name" when a light snow began to fall. It mixed beautifully with the music, which always brought me to tears with the line, "The Lord is in His temple and there is still a faith that can make the mountains move." I had been overcome by a very bad attitude that day, and the Lord used the song and the snow to soften my heart towards my family for the holidays and beyond.

Secondly, I too have always felt the wonder at the hand of God in creation, and I loved to play Rich's "The Color Green" on my business trips throughout Oklahoma and Kansas.

Finally, I wanted you to just know that my testimony, which is a long story involving a stormy night in 1989, was perfectly summed up by Rich Mullins in the song "Home." He sang, "What I've had settled for, You've blown so far away, and what You've brought me to I thought I could not reach." And, "When the night was through and the storm had passed, and after everything that could be shaken was shaken all that remained was all I ever really had."

I have appreciated those lyrics more than any others ever since. And I love that the song ended with a gathering to Rich's home, because that is the same way this story ends. God Bless.

Shawn McEvoy
Oklahoma Baptist University

I miss the music of Rich Mullins. I have several tapes and CD's. He was an awesome musician. I will always love his Hammer Dulcimer playing. I am thankful that Mitch is doing well. I have a friend recovering from a head injury. His injury occurred in March 97. He is still not back to normal yet. I am praying for everyone involved here.

Russ Johnson

I envy Rich in a way, cause now he is in Heaven singing, "Oh God, You are an Awesome God." I praise the Lord for the life, love for the Lord, and deeper devotion to God that was the legacy that he passed on to everyone who came in contact with him through his music.

I sometimes wonder why God would take a man from this earth who is doing so much for Him. I guess we'll only know that day God calls us home. Until then, we can look for His coming and realize that we are frail people. We experience pain, but God is still alive. Rich is alive forever with the God Who created him and gave him his songs. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord for his boundless mercy and grace that we pray he gives to all of us who loved Rich's music.

In Christ,
Joshua Kelley
Assistant Pastor
- Uijongbu Baptist Church
Uijongbu, South Korea

I have become so aware of the sun's rising and setting. It is amazing at how much more beautiful they are to me now. I didn't know him, but I miss him.

Janet Rojas

October 8, 1997. Today, I spent my lunch break at a Christian Bookstore near my office where I saw a flyer announcing Rich's death. I was in a total shock. The world stopped turning for a while. Rich was one of my heroes. It's hard to believe that the guy who created Our God is an Awesome God, If I Stand, Step by Step, Growing Young, and hundreds of other great songs will create no more. Mr. Mullins, why did you have to go?

As I calmed myself, I realized that Rich is now in a much better place. A place where he can create and sing songs to his Father. That makes me happy. Yes, I am happy for Richard Wayne Mullins.

In a way, I envy Rich because he is already with the Awesome God. Well, just wait for me Mr. Mullins. You're a musician, and so am I. Someday, we'll get together and "jam" for our Heavenly Father.

Benny Saragih
Jakarta, Indonesia

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Thursday, October 9, 1997

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What a shock to her that one of brightest and best has beentaken from us. My own selfish regret is never again to have that unparralled joy of discovering a new album of songs, of living with that collection of songs until it becomes the soundtrack to my life. Sometimes I felt that if Rich had opened up my head and looked around, he couldn't have made music more relavent to my own personal issues and struggles of faith. I will miss having that voice of understanding and, most of all, of hope, travelling through life with me.

Brian Warner

Capetown, South Africa

hi, i just want to tell rich mullin's family that i'm really sorry to hear about rich's death. i was very upset when i heard the bad news. However, i know that the next thing he sees when he wakes up is the Lord and i am comforted by this thought. i will continue to pray for you that God may comfort you during this time of grief. Rich has inspired many with his songs and words. i've loved every song he's every written and sang. he is my favorite christian singer and i will never forget him. when i sing his songs i will always remember this great singer who's touch so many lives. thank you.

with much love,
jayne kyungyoon yang

I am a former rock musician who just recently discovered the music of Rich Mullins. I have been deeply moved by his message and his music. There is no doubt about his deep faith and love of God. I just purchased the "Songs" CD and am amazed by the depth and brilliance of his music. Rich used his talents for the Lord in a way that few people do. I only pray that I can continue to increase my faith so that I may in some way lead a few people to the Lord in the way that Rich has and will continue to lead through the music and peace that he left behind. God Bless his family. I know that Rich was truly of the Lord.

Brad

I am a graduate student at Auburn University in Alabama. While on a break between Summer and Fall quarter and visiting my family at home, I was enjoying listening to our new Christian radio station when I heard the tragic news of the death of Rich Mullins. All

weekend the radio station played one of his songs each hour. It brought much comfort to me to know that he is in a better place. We celebrate the legacy he left behind, and the source of strength his music provides. It's hard for me to sum up in words what his music as well as other Contemporary Christian Artists means to me, but I feel the best way is to share excerpts of this newspaper article from our school newspaper (The Auburn Plainsman).

I hope that you will be able to pass this on to his family.

Fans, followers mourn Christian artist killed in accident.

Although Rich Mullins was killed in a car accident nearly three weeks ago, fans of this nationally known artist are just now learning of his death.

Stephen Fields, a sophomore in liberal arts, said when he heard the news, he immediately thought of Keith Green, a Christian music pioneer who died in a 1977 plane crash. And like Green, Fields said, "(Mullins) had a genuine ministry, not just a singing career."

Mullins recorded nine albums and was nominated for 12 Dove awards. He is best known for the songs "Our God is an Awesome God" and "step by Step," which are now church standards.

Fans of Mullins said although his name might not be easily recognized, his music will continue to live on. Kristy Nemecek, a junior in child development/family studies, said, "I don't know (Artist's) names. But people who don't listen to Christian music have heard of (names like) Steven Curtis Chapman." But with Mullins, the opposite is more likely true. "Everybody knows his songs, but nobody knows his name," she said.

Sara Hazlett, a junior in microbiology/pre-med said, "But that is how (artists) should be... vessels of God's glory. Few people know his name, but look whose songs get sung on Sunday." Melissa Nichols, a sophomore in child development/ family studies, said, "His lyrics were different from anything I ever heard."

The themes of Mullins' music included the love of God, Mullins' love of God, his love of nature, his own weaknesses and how God was changing him. Kristen Wyatt, a sophomore in elementary education, said, "His songs take you back to the basics of who God is."

By Anna Kirkland,
Auburn Plainsman Staff Writer
Thursday, October 9, 1997

In closing, let me say that we students at Auburn University share in the sorrow of this death, and the songs that God placed upon Rich's heart we live with us forever. Everytime I hear his song, "Our God is an Awesome God" I get "goosebumps" thinking of the power of Jesus and his love for us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we thank you for sharing him with the world.

God Bless You,
Fran Crawford

To The Mullins Family:

Rich Mullins was far and away my favorite singer, songwriter, and poet. I heard the news of his death on my 17th birthday (Sept. 22). I was very upset until one day when I was listening to his song 'Elijah' for at least the 50th time and it hit me: Everything that that song describes, Rich is experiencing! It must be awesome for him. To write about it, and then to actually "look back at the stars"!

Rich's songs have touched me deeply and helped me through some of the low points in my life; and I will be forever grateful for that. I never had the chance to meet Rich Mullins, but I know I will see him in Heaven one day; and I will have a song to sing to him:

"Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave"

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Howard
British Columbia, Canada

Friday, October 10, 1997

I wanted to express my deep sorrow and yet profound joy at the death of Rich Mullins. He has been my favorite for quite some time. His songs really spoke to my heart and in them one could see the humanness, brokenness, and dependence of Rich on God. He loved God's outdoors and he obviously loved using his tremendous musical gift for the glory of his Maker.

You don't expect someone his age to be taken, but it just proves once again the uncertainty and brevity of life. I hope he got to "go out like Elijah," like he wanted to, but I have a feeling that he really doesn't care at this point. He's seen his Saviour's face, and that's all that matters. I feel a strange envy -- my brother died and he's already getting to experience what we all hope for.

I attended three of his concerts and enjoyed the holey-pants, barefooted ease with which he spoke to the crowd and praised his Father. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts.

Annette Robertson

My husband was extremely blessed by his experience working with Rich, Mitch, and Sam Howard on a "Canticle" work-in-progress in

Indy a year and a half ago, and I remember having a wonderful time at Sam's house afterwards. We all sat around and told what movies were important to us and why--it was like sitting around talking with a bunch of old friends, even though I had only met everyone a time or two before that.

Out of that evening came a lot of laughs, lists of "movies-I-need-to-see" (definitely "Lonesome Dove") and "movies-I-need-to-skip" (DEFINITELY "Legends of the Fall"!), precious memories--and a wonderful picture of Rich holding our 2 month old daughter. From the moment we got it from the developer it's been in a frame in her room. If it's possible, it seems more special now--I must say I am really sad that we won't be able to have an updated one. Still we will teach her about Rich through his music--his powerful, wonderful words nearly bring me to tears every time I hear them. "Growing Young" is a favorite but "my" song is "Hold Me Jesus"---

I'll never forget the night I was by myself driving our sick little girl to the hospital, not knowing if I could handle what was coming--shaking, but knowing I had to drive carefully on winter roads--switching on the radio at a stoplight--hearing the first chords. I cried from that light to the next, and then I stopped---I knew Jesus had me and I didn't need to be scared or even worried. And from that point on, for the entire hospital stay, those words echoed in my mind. That is Rich's legacy--his words bring people closer to God. There could be no greater thing to do with one's life, in my opinion.

Mrs. Mullins, (and all of Rich's family) I'm sure you know but I had to say it one more time--your son was amazing, and gave so much of himself. A true gift from God and he used his gifts well. I will never forget him and look forward to seeing him again.

Janice Stark

Dear Mullins Family I've only listened to Rich's music for alittle

over a year, but I can not express in words how much it's helped change my life. Last year I went through a difficult time dealing with issues from my past and Rich's music brought me the hope and peace I needed during those difficult times. Since his death I have learned about his work with Native Americans and was moved by his desire to reach these people. I am 3/5 Klamath Indian, and though I was adopted at 3 1/2 years of age, I am personally touched that he ministered to this tribe and others in the southern Oregon region. I am just beginning to learn more about my native heritage myself!

Rich's music has touched many lives and although he no longer has an earthly presence among us, he will forever live with us in spirit and his music. I am honored to have known about his work. He is a true gift.

God's Blessings to You,
-- Anne --

I am a Wichita native, relocated to Kansas City and now an Elder and Sunday school teacher in a strong Christian church in Overland Park, KS. Rich's music has been inspirational and uplifting to me, particularly as a Wichitan who loves Jesus Christ. I have even used "Creed" as a basis for lessons and challenges to our young singles to know who and what they believe in and to carry their faith in Jesus out to a lost world. Rich surely has strengthened and challenged many with his strong, Spirit filled music. The beautiful thing is that Rich can now look on the effect his music continues to have for His kingdom at the feet of our Lord Jesus, the true and only Keeper of the Plains.

Our God is truly and awesome God, and Rich was surely one of His awesome servants. I pray that God will greatly bless Rich's parents and family.

A Brother in Christ
- Mike Shelton
Lenexa, Kansas

Mrs. Mullins;

I knew Rich through Great Lakes Bible College as well as several retreats. We both were at them to minister to young people and Rich was very special. I am sure that many have talked about all that he gave and meant to them, so I echo that!!!

I know that at his death he was the happiest man ever. I am sure that he is driving Paul, Elijah and the other saints crazy with questions. :) I know that it must hurt to have lost him, but now he is home and one day you shall see him again.

Our loss is heaven's gain!!! Thanks for providing me with a special friend!!

Love...

Ike

Saturday, October 11, 1997

I would just like to say "Praise The Lord!!!!" The past few weeks have been difficult for the family as well as his many friends and fans around the world.

Rich was a brilliant man, a man who really was the shooting star we all longed for those brief glimpses of. For me he was a spiritual brother, though I only met him once. He was so faithful and so honest in his walk with God. It still amazes me how his life helped direct so many. I was certainly one of those many.

I have been working with children for eight years now and many of them abused and discarded by those they love the most. At times,

I feel so blessed by this and at times, my flesh and my anger causes me to feel resentful... and sometimes I am resentful to God for their pain. It is at these times when I begin to resent the body of Christ as well. It was during one of these moments that I first heard the music of Rich Mullins. It touched as no other. I was in tears before the end of that first song and praising the Lord once again! That song was "Step by Step." That day was over six years ago.

Since that time, I have begun college and am happy to say that I will graduate in December as an Elementary Teacher and I am thrilled to say that the Lord is leading me to Kayenta, Arizona, to teach on the reservation. Rich had a big hand in this when I met him at a bookstore over three years ago. He gave me encouragement and with the help of some other close friends of mine, my dream of becoming a missionary teacher may soon be a reality.

Rich was a wonderful man whose life touched many and please know that the prayers of myself and those around me are still with you. I am comforted to know that the music in Heaven must be better than we can imagine with Rich among them. It is only a short time before we will all see him again, and I praise the Lord for allowing us those small life changing glimpses we had of Rich Mullins here. God bless you!

Ron Hammel

Rich was a very special person who I only wish I could have known personally. Today I listened to a special program remembering Rich and it reminded me of how his music ministry was such an integral part of my relationship with God. I've been away from the Lord for too long and am trying to find my way back but it's a long road. God managed to use Rich and his ministry even after his untimely death to reach out to me.

I so much appreciate his thoughts and philosophy. I'm not sure how to put this so try to follow my thought. Rich was a great

philosopher in my view. The things he said sometimes were so profound and meaningful. I think that because he was a spiritual man, it made him and his philosophical mind were more valuable than those of the ancient "greats."

I'll miss his life, his music, and him. I had the pleasure of seeing him in concert three times up here in Michigan. He visited Great Lakes in Lansing once or twice when I was in high school and I saw him there and in Kansas at a missions convention.

Sincerely,
Larry Wanger

My husband and I recently saw Rich and Mitch in concert (in the St. Louis area) and had the privilege of seeing the new young artist and all the talent he possesses. He has been in my thoughts and prayers. The main Christian radio station in St. Louis was bought out a few weeks back and we Christians here in St. Louis have definitely been cut off. I am glad to hear Mitch is in better condition than what I had last heard.

We (my husband and I) are probably just reiterating what so many feel when we say Rich was truly one of a kind within Christian music (and music period.) He gained our great respect by his humility and unwillingness to put himself in the spotlight (even at his own concerts!)

We have been to three of his concerts, and the one that struck me the most, personally, was at the Westport Theatre in the Round in St. Louis. It was just Rich and Beeker, and partway through the concert, Rich started asking for requests. It was so personal. It felt like a bunch of friends getting together to have a sing-a-long. When one individual request "Screen-Door on a Submarine," Rich wouldn't do it because he said it would sound really stupid without any back-up. To me, that one statement portrayed a lot about who he really was. I also have to mention that was the same concert everyone (including the audience) started singing hymns,

and he and Beeker tried to sneak out in the middle of one. I almost missed them walking out because there was such an attitude of worship in the place.

I'm not trying to puff Rich up; he was just a talented man who made himself a willing vessel for the Lord. But I do respect him and his example in the world of Christian music greatly.

We'll see you in heaven, Rich, and I hope to do a couple rounds of "Screen-door on a Submarine" with you!

Jenny and Michael Lape

I feel sorry for the family of Rich Mullins. I know that he was a godly man who was ready to serve God.

Jim Lombardi

Words can't express the shock in my heart when I heard the news. I have just recently started to listen and enjoy the lyrics Rich Mullins brought to the non-Christian and Christian community. I was also touched by his compassion and interest in helping the Native American youth, who need role models like Rich to make a difference in their lives. I work with high school students, so I know the need there is for Christian men and women to help them make the right choices. Hopefully, Rich's life and sadly, his death will make all of us think about the choices we make and how we can encourage and inspire others... as he did.

My prayers are with you and know that God's angels are rejoicing that one of His Chosen has come "home"...

Rachel Arakaki
Honolulu, Hawaii

Sunday, October 12, 1997

I have spent hours reading the messages from friends of Rich. It has been such a meaningful way to grieve his death, by reviewing how he lived and touched lives for the Lord. Thank you so much for making it possible for this to happen. He is a musician who greatly touched my life. I was privileged to see him in concert 4 times, 3 of which were during this last year. The last time we saw him was in Green Bay on August 10. I praise God for His life and ministry and pray that each of us that was affected by his life will also spend our days sharing the love of Jesus with others. May it help us to have a stronger conviction to share the awesome God that we have before we're out of here!

Bord

It's difficult to find words to express the sadness I felt at hearing of Rich's death. At the same moment, I found myself rejoicing in knowing he is now singing "face to face, no longer seeing through a glass darkly."

I have listened to his music since 1989 and wanted for years to see him in concert. Finally in 1993, I went and was blessed by his talent, gifts, and sense of worship. Moments of worship like that cannot be duplicated. Yet I hear the same thing from others who attended other concerts. We, here on earth, have lost someone quite special. He did great things with his gifts and left behind a legacy that majestically praises the God he loved so much.

His death was quick and when he opened his eyes, he began worshiping at the throne of God. And God will say of him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

You and his family will still be in my prayers, as well as Mitch

and his recovery. Thank you for being a great influence on Rich and raising him in a Christian home.

In Him,
Hazel Rhodes

My heartfelt condolences to you. Quite honestly, I know very little about Rich except for his music. But I've grown very close to his songs.

Let me elaborate: I am a 37 year old husband and father to 2 wonderful girls, ages 3 1/2 years and 4 months. In August of 1996, a mole removed from my back was diagnosed as malignant melanoma. At the time, I knew very little about this form of cancer, and as I read about it in the home medical books that we had, I became VERY scared.

Somewhere between the time my dermatologist informed me of the lab results and my first visit to an oncologist, I was driving to work listening to Christian radio... hoping... praying... The station played "Hold me Jesus." Tears the size of nickels streamed down my cheeks. When I was so down that I couldn't find the words to pray, God found just exactly the right words and gave them to me through the radio. It was Rich's song. In my eyes, the words were so eloquent and appropriate that they had to be from God. (He works very mysteriously and wonderfully.) I immediately drove to a Christian bookstore and bought his Greatest Hits tape. After listening to it (about 50 times), somehow I knew if I gave the whole situation to Jesus, it would all work out. It did. It has. A year later the prognosis is very good!!!

That song and many others are daily inspiration to me. AllRightOKUhHuhAmen has been inspiration to me to find a ministry and participate. All of the songs on the Greatest Hits CD have inspired me at onetime or another.

It wasn't until now that I became aware of this terrible tragedy. I am saddened that the Lord will no longer be working through Rich

on this earth. However if the words and music that Rich made were a reflection of his character and spiritual make-up, please take comfort in the fact that: He is happier today. And he is anxiously awaiting the day when we will join him in the ultimate promiseland.

My prayers will be with you. May God bless you and ease the burden of your sorrow!!!

Paul Huckabone

Monday, October 13, 1997

As I sit here and read the many messages that have been sent, which I do almost on a daily basis, (it has helped me deal with losing Rich. Reading the words of comfort sent in by others has served to comfort me as well.), I see a recuring theme. There are many wounded soldiers laying about on the battlefield. Many of us have been hurt deeply by the church. I know it's a sad commentary on the state of the body of Christ in this day and age, but it is all too true. I myself have been deeply wounded (repeatedly) by the church over the last few years. And until very recently, I thought I came through the whole nightmare fairly unscathed. (Please bear with me, I am coming to the point.)

But I began to realize how hard my heart had become. Bitterness and anger had taken up residence there, without my even being aware of it, until they were already firmly entrenched. I am by nature, an emotional and sensitive person. But I had not cried for years. I was no longer easily moved with compassion. I was no longer hearing God's voice or feeling His presence. The heavens had become "as brass" to me, and a "dryness" had overtaken me to such an extent and for such a long period of time that I had become used to it. That is an awful state for a praise and worship leader to be in.

When I heard the news about Rich it was Sunday morning on my way to church and the radio was down so low, and the kids were talking so that I wasn't even sure of what I had heard. I couldn't believe that what I thought I'd heard could possibly be true, but on the following Tuesday it came back to my mind and I immediately got on the web and began a search for "Rich Mullins" and found the memorial page. It was true. I was shocked! Rich was gone! I said all of that just to say this; even in death, Rich continues to be a servant; continues to minister; continues to be used by God in a mighty way.

God, who is all wise and all loving has used Rich's death to break this cold, hard heart of mine. I don't understand this grief I've been feeling over the loss of a man whom I've never even seen in person. But God does. Rich's passing has caused me to take stock of my life, and merciful God has been revealing my own heart to me, breaking the hardness and washing me clean in the healing, restoring river of His love. I have more clarity than I have in years. "I once was blind but now I see." Rich's death has pointed me in the right direction again. Oh! if only I could find the words to express how thankful I am for Rich Mullins! Thankful for his life, his words, his songs. Thankful to God for sending this visitor from heaven. Be comforted and know this; Rich Mullins lived well. He did NOT die in vain! He ran the course and finished the race. He has joined that "great cloud of witnesses." He is now in the arms of Jesus.

To Rich I would say this. "We never met, and yet I can say beyond a shadow of a doubt that, with what I know of you, we are of like mind, like heart. I listen to your songs and hear all of the words that I would right, if only I could. I look at your picture and realize that your there with HIM, right this very instant, in the place where my heart longs to be. I stumbled and fell on that 'narrow road' and lay there in the darkness that I myself had created, and then you came along with your flashlight and stopped just long enough to show me that He was there all of the time. I missed you at the Navajo Nation but I'll be sure to look you up when I get there 'cause I want to tell you "thanks".

To Rich's family directly, you have my deepest sympathy and my prayers. Rich is still making a difference in this world. These are the first words of Rich's that I ever heard, and they couldn't mean more to me if they had been birthed out of my own spirit. They still move me now as they did in the beginning and as they have over all the years I've listened to them.

"If I stand, let me stand on the promise
that You will pull me through
And if I can't let me fall on the grace
that first brought me to You.

If I sing let me sing for the joy
that has borne in me these songs
And if I weep let it be as a man
who is longing for his home."

I apologize for rambling on so, but my heart is so full and human language is so inadequate to express what is in the human spirit. Go with God. Be at peace.

Sincerely,
Lisa Tidwell

I had heard rumors about Rich. Being in Germany I didn't know if they were true. I would like to express deepest condolence for the family. We will keep them in prayer. I know what they are going through since my grandmother just recently passed away because of liver cancer.

Love in Christ who heals all wounds,
The Kidd family,
missionaries in Mannheim, Germany

My name is Grace and I just found out last night that Rich had

passed away. This struck me especially hard, for while I had only met him once, his music and passion for God has made an incredible impact on me. Ever since his first album his music helped me to get a better handle on the God that wanted me to know Him and that I wanted to know.

I met him when he came to my college campus for a GMA songwriting seminar. We chatted briefly in the lunch line and I had asked him if he was going to play Everyman in concert that night. He said that he normally didn't play that song live because it was sorta hard, but that he'd see what he could do. He also signed the CD with that song on it and wrote, "Be God's". Later that night he DID sing Everyman saying that it was by request.

My memory of Rich will always be that he was a simple man living in a very complicated world, that knew that if you would just be God's - that was the key - to everything. I will continue to treasure his music and always remember to BE GOD'S!!!

Grace Albion
Nyack, NY

Dear friends,

I know that you've received lots of prayers for your loss and testimonies to Rich's impact on peoples lives. I wanted to add my story to that list. I hope that you find encouragement in all the ways that God used this man.

Almost exactly two years ago, on October 6, 1995, I went to my only Rich Mullins concert in Seattle. God worked an amazing miracle to provide me four tickets through a local radio station, because He knew that that was a night that I was going to need my friends and going to need to hear the words that Rich had to say. You see, at 4:30 that afternoon, I received news that my father had passed away. Although he'd been sick for a while, nothing can describe the pain in my heart that night (I'm sure you can relate to that).

As my family is a 5-hour plane ride away, I chose to go to the concert that night and fly to be with my family that weekend. I still have vivid memories of that concert, of working so hard to maintain my composure, and completely weeping at the words of Hold Me Jesus. Throughout the concert, it seemed God was saying to me, "Listen to these words. I wrote them for you."

Then, as the concert was ending, Rich said that he felt he needed to tell one more story. I KNOW that the story was for me... it was about an old man that Rich knew that lived in a nursing home (just as my Dad had done) that was absolutely convinced that Jesus was with him. The staff thought he was little looney, but smiled as the man spoke of Jesus coming to visit him often. When the man passed away, they found him sitting on the floor, with his head on a chair, as if he had simply fallen asleep with his head in the lap of "someone". God seemed to scream in my ears as Rich spoke those words, "I WAS WITH YOUR DAD, TOO!!!!!! HE'S WITH ME NOW!!!!!!".

So, although I never personally met Rich Mullins, he was one of the most significant people in my life on a day that seemed so filled with pain and darkness. I will be forever grateful to you, his family, and to God, that you shared this man with us. May you hear Jesus as clearly as I did in the midst of your grief.

Thanks for listening,
Malia

Dear Friends and Family of Rich,

I found out just Saturday that one of my all time favorite word-smiths had gone to be with Jesus.

I am a professional Mobile DJ. I was coming home from a wedding reception that really troubled me. The bride and groom were Christians, yet the tone of the party was set by the Navy friends

of the groom. It got kinda crude towards the end, and I was driving home doing the mental gymnastics I often do with my job...."Is this OK before G0d? Am I just blowing it? What do I do when people begin to act unacceptably?" On the on the questions go about compromise, faith, and reality. I was barely listening the countdown magazine on Christian radio, but caught the announcer say that it was a tribute to the "Late Rich Mullins." Volume up. Tears begin.

Rich to me symbolizes a man who wanted to live life. To know His creator. To draw others in to a relationship with Jesus, not a ritual, not an act. No games. I have thought more than once while listening to his music that I'd love to just hang out with this guy. Pick his brain and enjoy his wit and wisdom.

The song "Never Picture Perfect" captured me the first time I heard it. That line, "I can still hear my Dad cussin'....." I had to laugh. It was just matter of fact reality. No excuses or apologies, just the way it was, but tucked in the solemnity of a picture of a true family, parents giving faith wings. As a young mom with young kids at that time, it gave me hope to BE REAL!! To hang in there. To share all of life with my kids, not just a sanitized version.

I attend a wonderful A of G church with very "progressive" worship: Dance Team, flags, the whole thing. I'm not knocking it, I love it, I enter in as often as I'm able, but this story will reveal a great chink in the armor of charismania...

I asked our music minister about a year or 2 ago if he liked Rich, (since I had just gotten "A Liturgy..." and loved it). He said he used to, but wouldn't listen to him any more since he wasn't sure if the guy was really saved... To say I was shocked to the point of bemusement is an understatement. I asked how he figured that and he said he had a friend in TN who did studio work who said that, "Rich Mullins smokes cigarettes and cusses." Quote end quote. I was so dumfounded I couldn't even speak. Actually, I didn't want to. I walked away sad and befuddled. How could he come up with that conclusion? Where does scripture judge, categorize, and deem as worthy of the loss of salvation a vice?

God forbid he ever be around me when I stub my toe...What would he think of CS Lewis, Chesterton? Jesus and his "brood of vipers..." It personified to me what is so wrong with the church. Majoring in the minors, becoming inaccessible to the masses because of pettiness.

If Rich were in my world, I think he probably would have hung out at that wedding I DJed Saturday night. He may have come up with a creative way to defuse those lost sailors, but most importantly, I know he would have been my friend.

Thank you for sharing him with us. I can't wait to see him on the other side. He truly is a kindred spirit....

Your sister in Christ,

Nancy L. Byrd

Oak View, CA

On Friday afternoon of September 19, with beautiful sunshine and not a cloud in the sky, I took my bicycle and a sleeping bag to spend the weekend alone with God. At dusk, I lay down for the night among a few trees in a wheatfield, spending the evening in prayer and worship as I rekindled my faith and renewed my personal devotion. While looking up at the night sky and finding myself filled with the wonder of this world, a shooting star streaked across the starscape, slicing nearly from one horizon to the other. Returning home and hearing the news of Rich's death, I know that surely that star was for him and the life he lived. Like the shooting star that gives up everything for that moment of brilliance, Rich had so completely given himself to God's service that the brilliance shown in his life was indeed a glimpse of the love of God itself.

Brian William

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